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Choi et al.

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(54) **RECOMBINANT EXPRESSION VECTOR SYSTEM FOR VARIANTS OF COAGULATION FACTOR VIII AND VON WILLEBRAND FACTOR**

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C07H 21/04 (2006.01)

C07K 14/755 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **C07K 14/755** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is an expression vector system for variants of coagulation Factor VIII (FVIII) and von Willebrand Factor (vWF). In detail, mutant vWF the size of which is significantly reduced by deleting exons but which has remarkably increased FVIII stabilizing and activating efficiency, and an expression vector system useful for the treatment of hemophilia which is capable of expressing the same along with FVIII are disclosed. Use of the mutant vWF with a reduced size enables effective expression of FVIII in a viral vector and significantly enhanced FVIII activity. Further, the viral vector may be effectively used to treat hemophilia through gene therapy.

3 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



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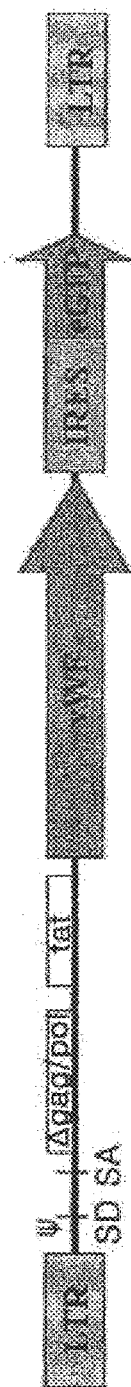


FIGURE 1

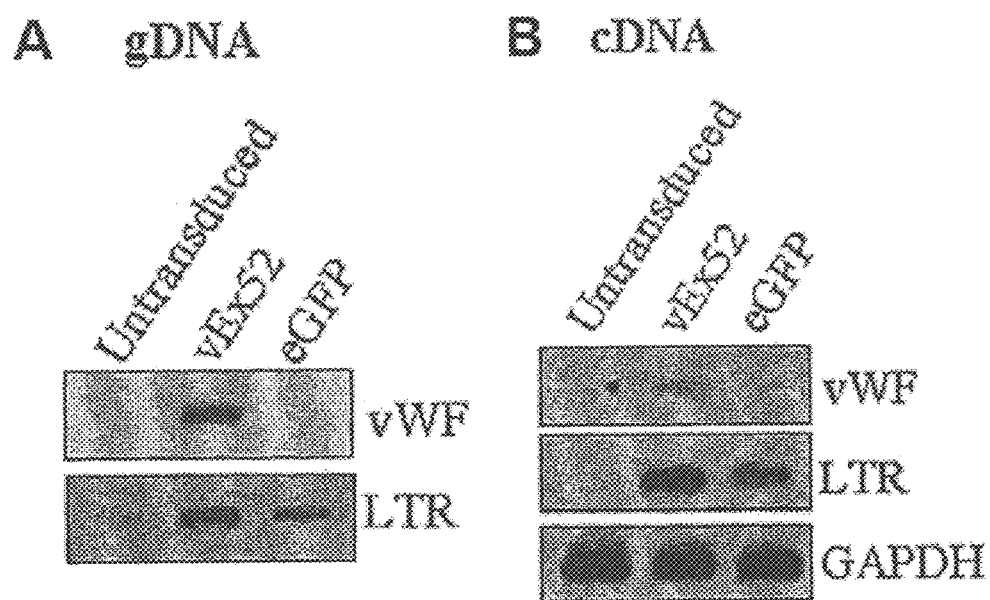


FIGURE 2

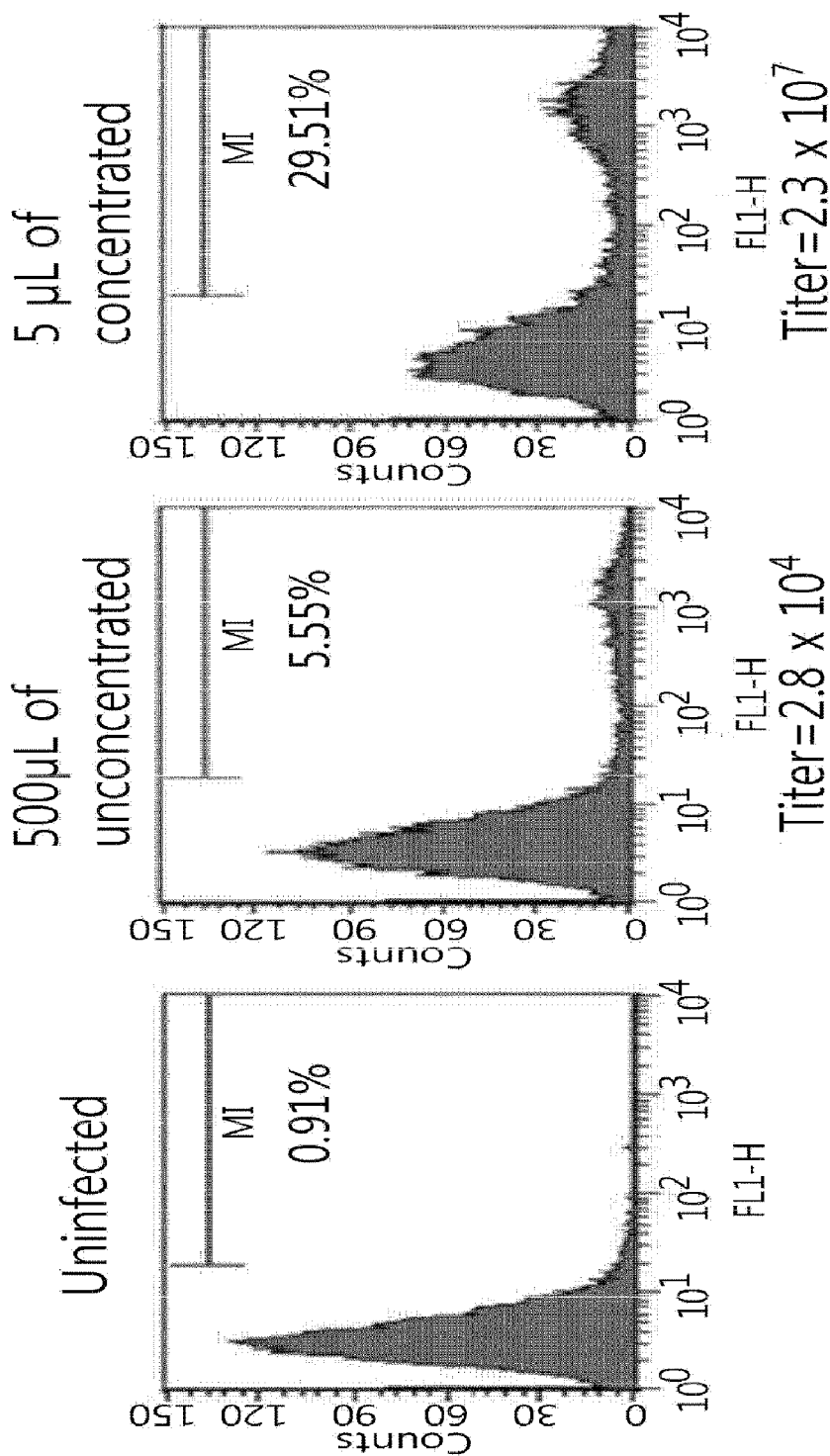


FIG. 3

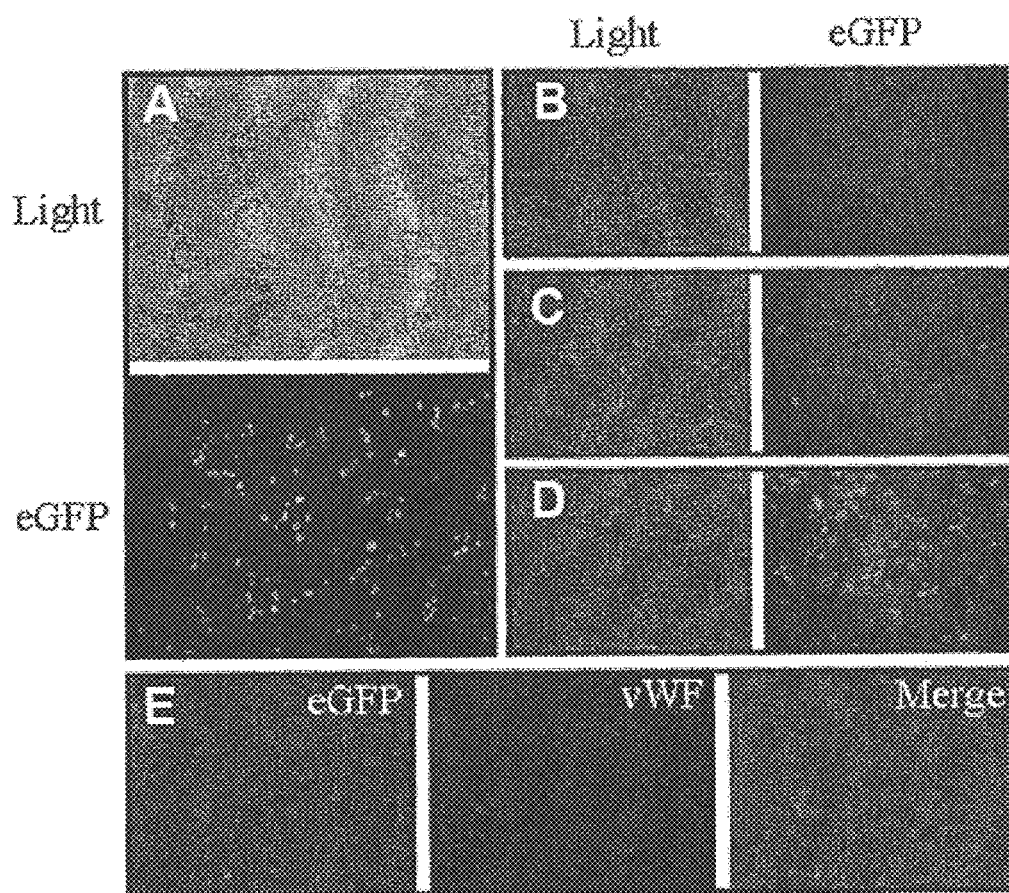


FIGURE 4

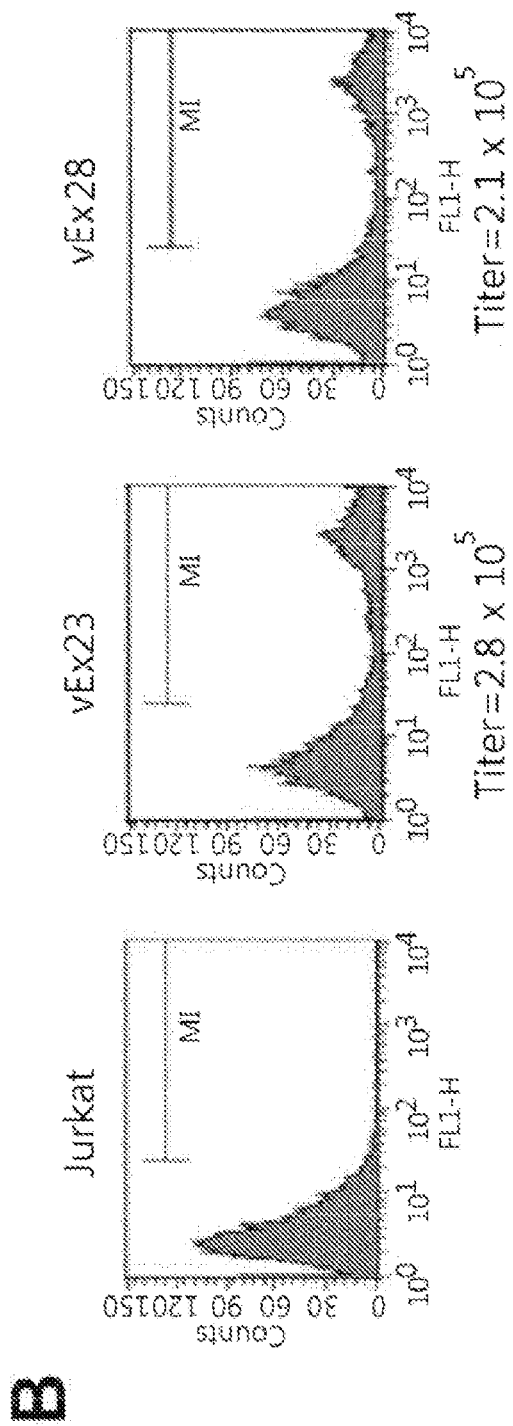
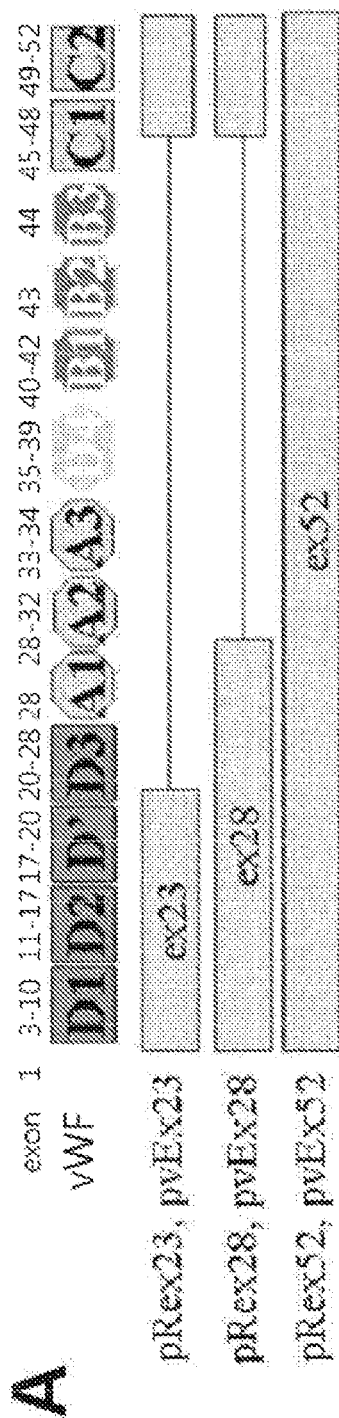
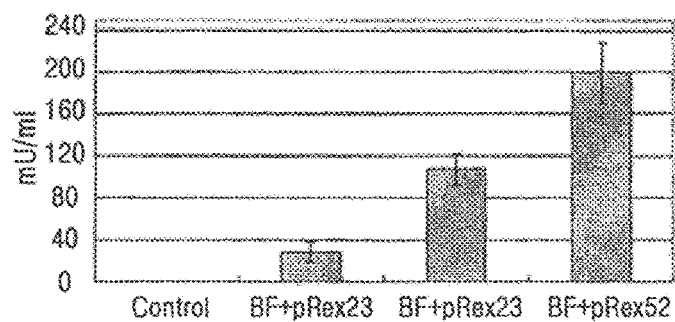
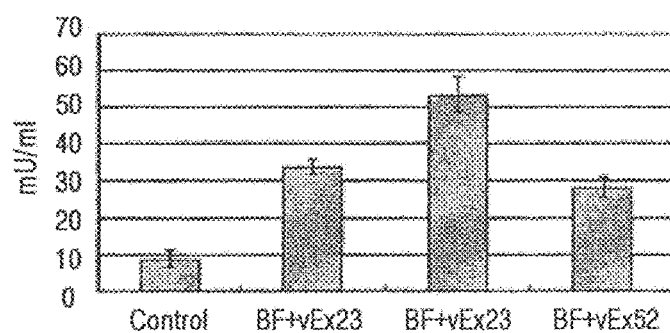


FIG. 5

A Transfection**B** Transduction**C**

RT-PCR

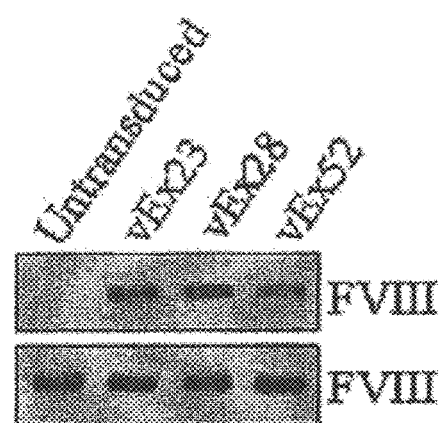


FIGURE 6

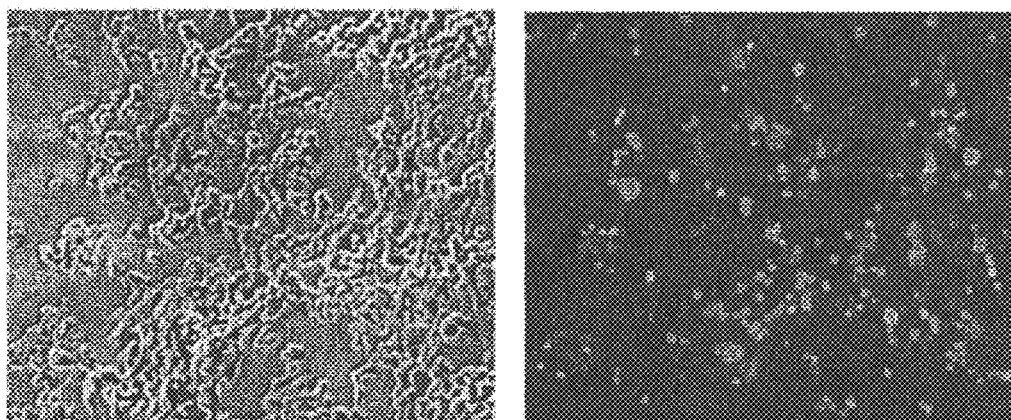


FIGURE 7

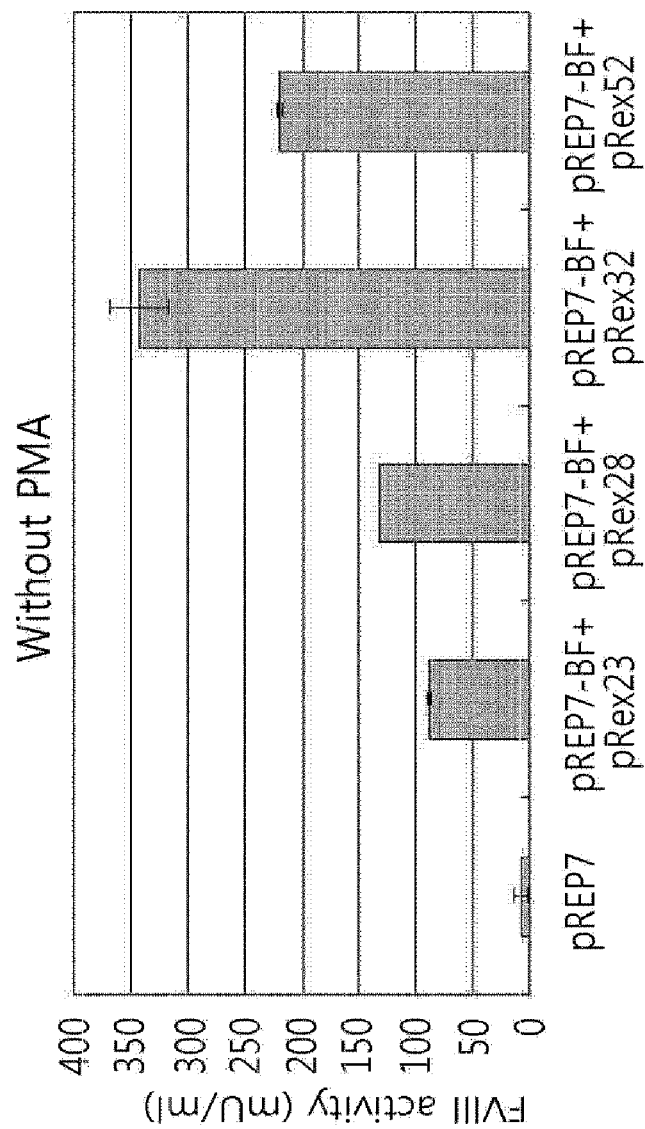


FIG. 8A

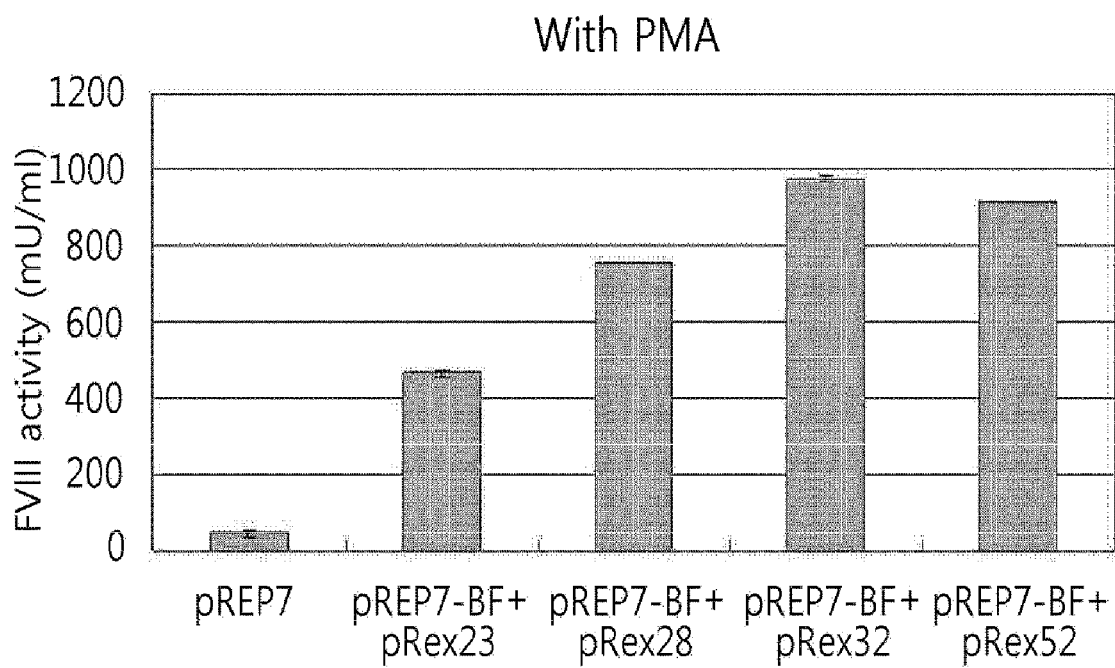


FIG. 8B

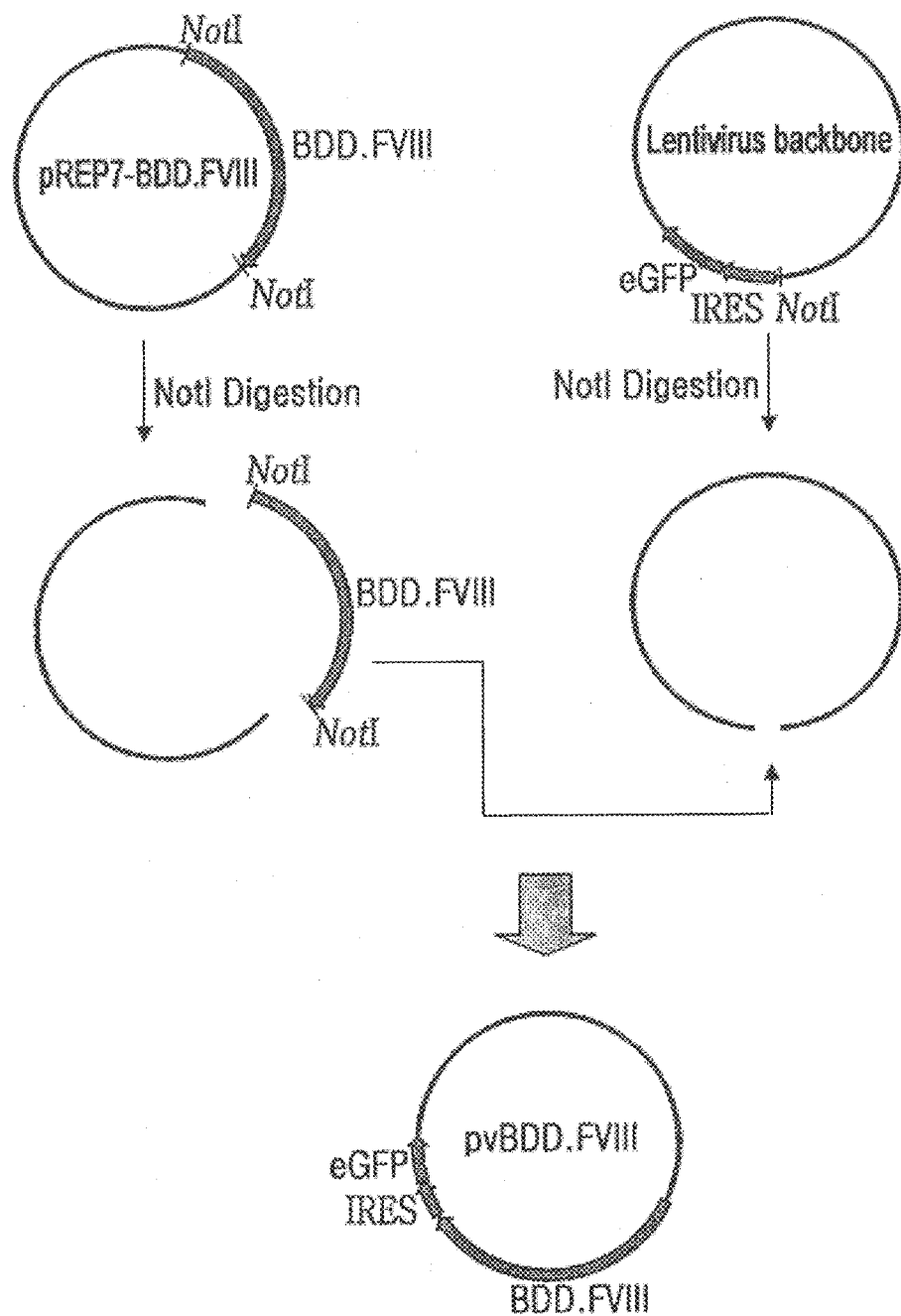


FIGURE 9

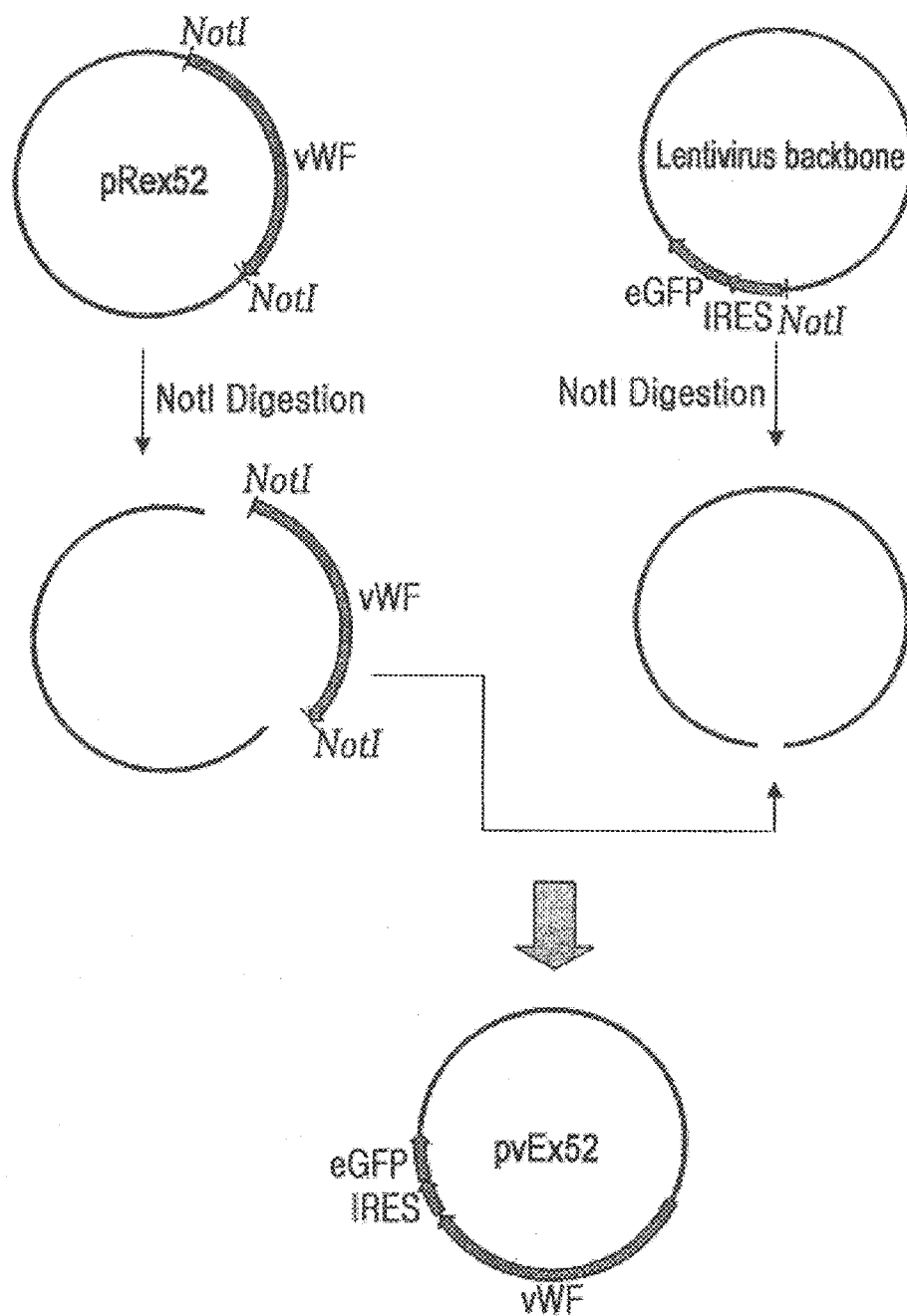


FIGURE 10

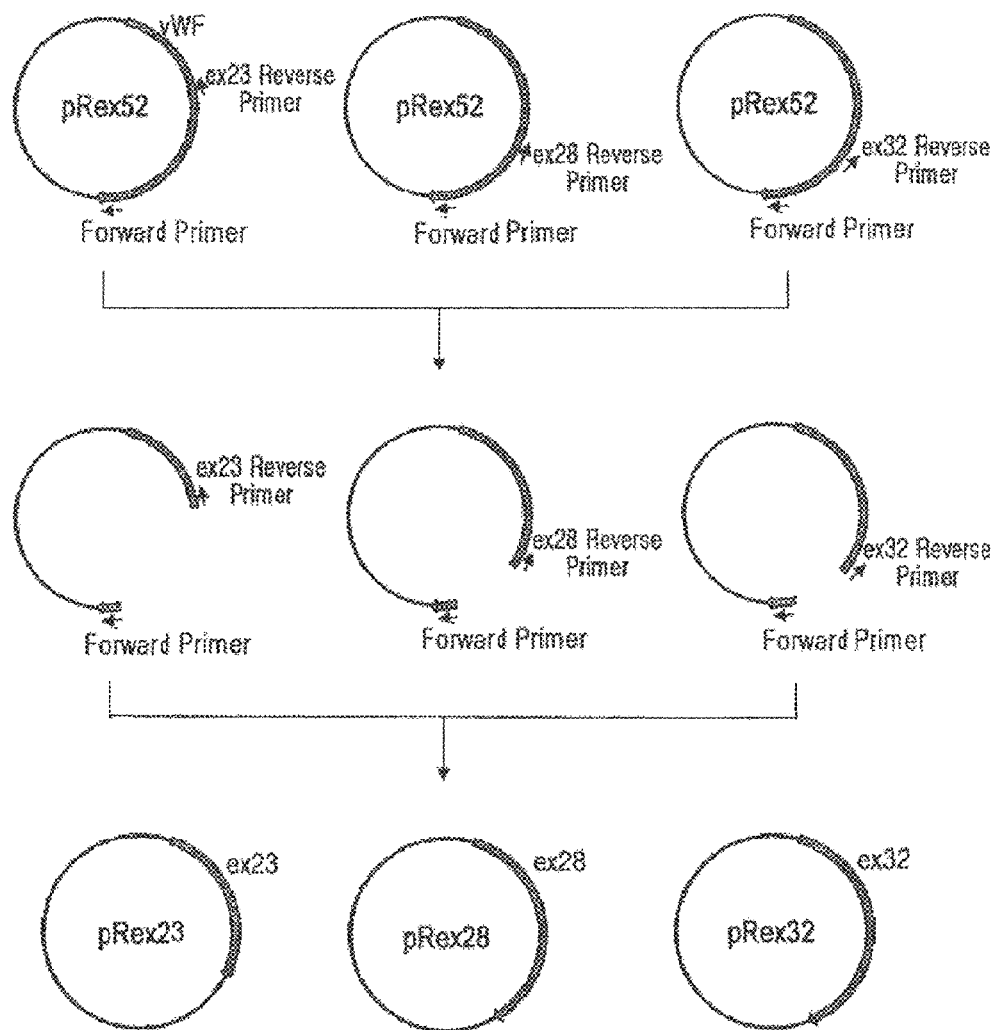


FIGURE 11

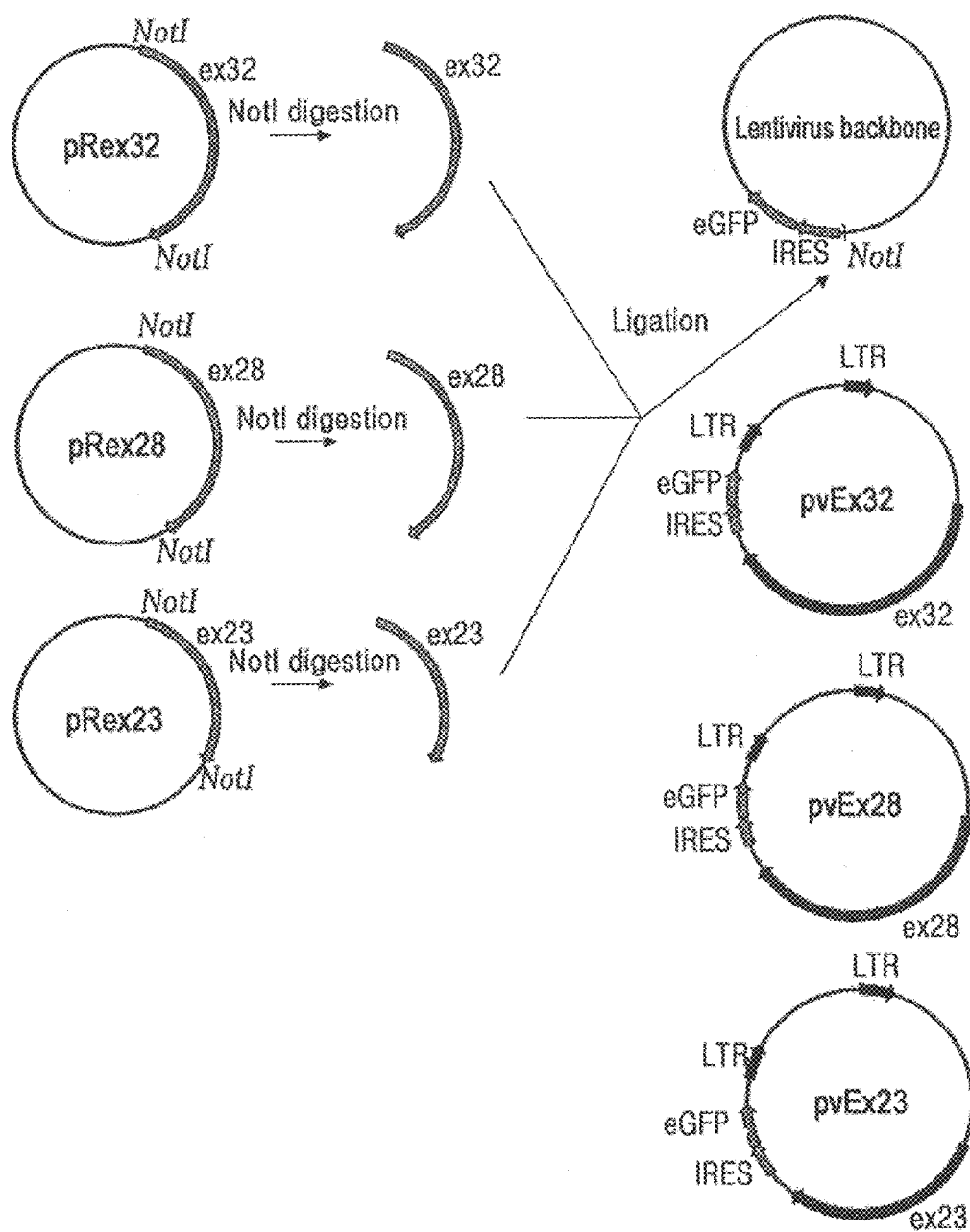


FIGURE 12

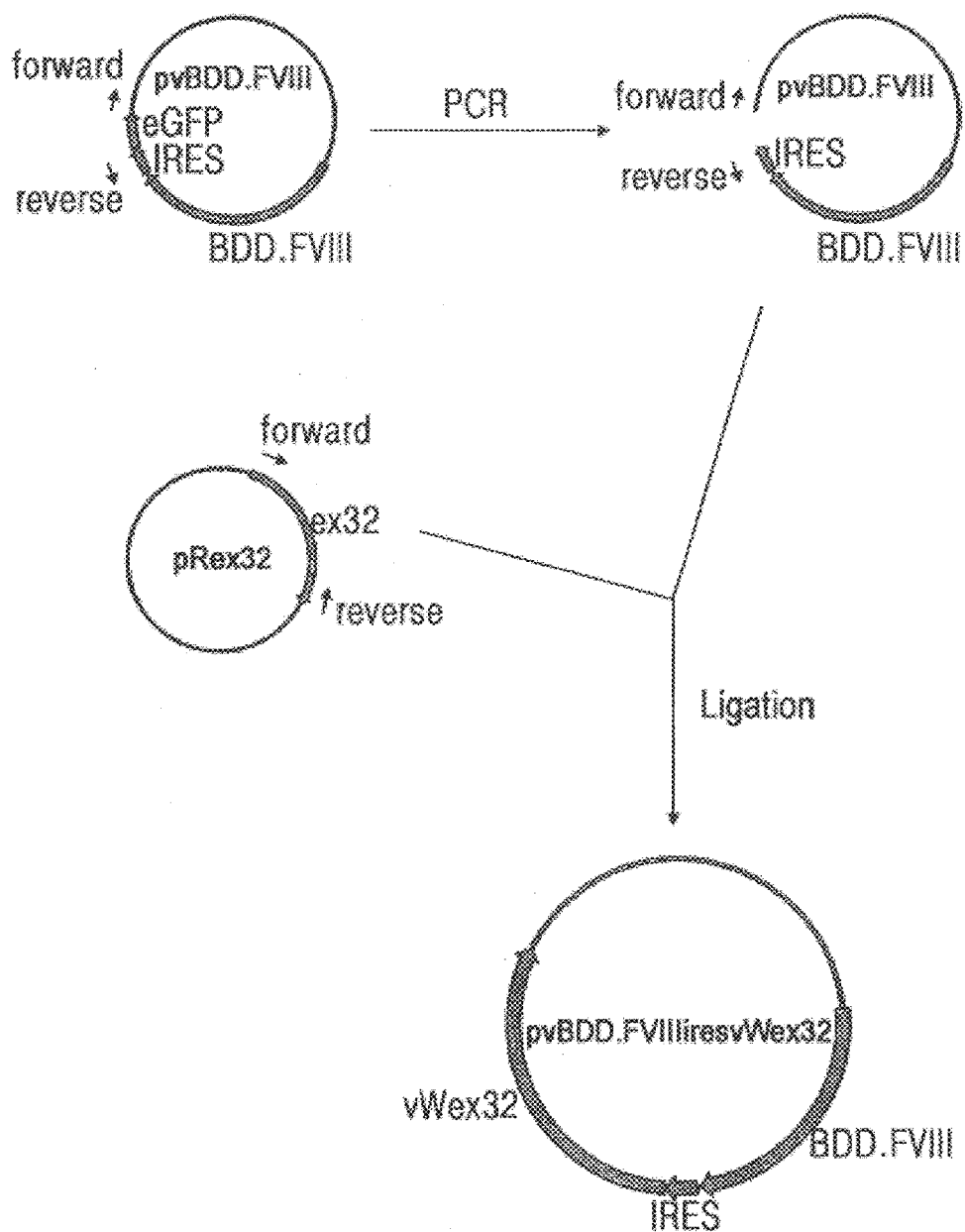


FIGURE 13

RECOMBINANT EXPRESSION VECTOR SYSTEM FOR VARIANTS OF COAGULATION FACTOR VIII AND VON WILLEBRAND FACTOR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a division of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/200,928 filed on Aug. 28, 2008. U.S. Ser. No. 12/200,928 claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-20080019392, filed on Feb. 29, 2008, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office. The disclosures of which are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

SEQUENCE LISTING

The instant application contains a Sequence Listing which has been submitted in ASCII format via EFS-Web and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Said ASCII copy, created on May 30, 2014, is named 88315DIV50498_ST25.txt and is 84,678 bytes in size.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an expression vector system for variants of coagulation Factor VIII (FVIII) and von Willebrand Factor (vWF), more particularly to mutant vWF the size of which is significantly reduced by deleting exons but which has remarkably increased FVIII stabilizing and activating efficiency, and an expression vector system useful for the treatment of hemophilia which is capable of expressing the same along with FVIII.

2. Description of the Related Art

Hemophilia A is a hereditary, X chromosome-linked blood clotting disorder caused by a deficiency in FVIII. Symptoms include frequent bleeding in muscles, bones, digestive and urinary tracts, etc. accompanied by swelling and pain. Current treatment is based on regular supplementation of FVIII. This requires a lifelong treatment, giving troubles in daily lives and economic burdens. Further, there is a high risk of secondary infection during its administration.

FVIII is a large glycoprotein of 180 Kb, and consists of A1-A2-B-A3-C1-C2 domains. The FVIII gene is located on the X chromosome, and its synthesis is carried out mostly in the liver. Until now, there have been a lot of researches to transduce FVIII, but there were many difficulties because its size was too large, or the transduced FVIII gene was not expressed or secreted well. The B domain of FVIII consists of a large exon and its asparagine, serine and threonine residues are highly glycosylated. According to recent functional studies, the domain is not essential in procoagulant activity, and the deletion thereof does not affect the function of FVIII. When B-domain deleted FVIII (BDD-FVIII) was expressed in cells, the problems of unstable FVIII mRNA structure and interaction with ER chaperones were overcome and a lot of FVIII mRNA could be attained. Of the BDD-FVIII, a variant with 226 amino acids at the N-terminal with 6 consensus site for N-linked glycosylation exhibited significantly increased FVIII secretion.

In genetic treatment of hemophilia A, the target cell is bone marrow cells, especially stem cells or progenitor cells. Lentivirus-based vectors are used to transfer the gene. After infection into cells, these vectors insert the gene into the chromosome of the infected cell, thereby enabling stable and consistent expression. Other viruses such as Moloney murine

leukemia virus could not be used to infect stem cells or progenitor cells, because they infect only dividing cells. And, although adenovirus produces a large amount of expressed proteins, a consistent expression was impossible because the gene is diluted as the differentiation continues.

Accordingly, a safe and consistent way of transducing FVIII is necessary, and the development thereof is needed. Lentiviral vectors can infect nearly all non-dividing cells, as well as dividing cells, and provide stable expression for a long period of time because they are inserted in the cell chromosome after the infection. Thus, lentivirus-based vectors for expression of FVIII may be useful for gene therapy.

vWF plays an important role in activating FVIII during blood coagulation. vWF is a blood glycoprotein which binds to FVIII thereby preventing it from being degraded in the blood. Besides, it plays a major role in blood coagulation by binding to collagen or platelet when endothelial cells are injured. vWF consists of D'-D3-A1-A2-A3-D4-B1-B2-B3-C1-C2 domains, and the D'-D3 domain binds to FVIII. vWF is a 250 kDa-sized protein and its gene is about 9 Kb in size. Accordingly, it is impossible to insert vWF in a lentiviral vector to help the function of FVIII. Through researches on the essential part in the vWF domains with respect to activation of FVIII, the inventors of the present invention found out that the portion of the vWF gene up to exon 32 functions most efficiently. Based on this finding, we inserted FVIII, an internal ribosome entry site (IRES) and vWF in a lentivirus-based vector. The resultant viral vector expresses the proteins gag-pol, env, tat and rev required for lentivirus, thereby expressing FVIII and vWF upon infection of cells. This attempt has never been made and is valued very highly for gene therapies and hemophilia researches in the future.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to provide mutant von Willebrand Factor (vWF) the size of which is significantly reduced by deleting exons but which has remarkably increased coagulation Factor VIII (FVIII) stabilizing and activating efficiency.

The present invention is also directed to provide a vector which expresses FVIII and vWF consistently and stably in cells.

Through expression of the factors, the present invention aims at providing a successful gene therapy for hemophilia A. The present invention is distinguished from other existing inventions in that not only FVIII but also vWF, which is essential for the function thereof, is expressed together.

To prove the effect of the present invention, VSV-G pseudotyped lentivirus expressing FVIII and vWF was produced using a lentivirus-based vector and transfected into various cells. Then, the activity of FVIII expressed in the cells was measured. It was determined by quantitating the level of activation of Factor X by FVIII and activated Factor IX.

In an aspect, the present invention provides mutant vWF (vWF23) having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in which exons 24-46 of vWF are deleted.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a mutant vWF23 gene having a base sequence encoding for a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. Preferably, the gene may have a base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

In another aspect, the present invention provides mutant vWF (vWF28) having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 in which exons 29-46 of vWF are deleted.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a mutant vWF28 gene having a base sequence encoding for a protein

having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4. Preferably, the gene may have a base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

In another aspect, the present invention provides mutant vWF (vWF32) having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 in which exons 33-48 of vWF are deleted.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a mutant vWF32 gene having a base sequence encoding for a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6. Preferably, the gene may have a base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

In another aspect, the present invention provides an animal cell expression vector comprising a gene encoding for the mutant vWF (vWF23, vWF28 or vWF32).

In the present invention, the animal cell expression vector may be any non-viral (plasmid or liposome) or viral vector capable of delivering and expressing the gene in an animal cell. Preferably, it may be a viral vector such as retroviral vector, lentiviral vector, adenoviral vector and adeno-associated viral vector. More preferably, it may be a lentiviral vector. In FIG. 12, lentiviral vectors pvEx23, pvEx28 and pvEx32, which express the vWF23, vWF28 and vWF32, respectively, are disclosed.

In the present invention, the animal cell expression vector may further comprise a gene encoding for B-domain-deleted human FVIII. In this case, the two effective ingredients for the treatment of hemophilia may be expressed using a single vector.

In the present invention, the B-domain-deleted human FVIII may preferably have an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, and its gene may have a base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7.

In the present invention, the animal cell expression vector capable of expressing both the mutant vWF (vWF23, vWF28 or vWF32) and the B-domain-deleted human FVIII may be any non-viral (plasmid or liposome) or viral vector. Preferably, it may be a viral vector such as retroviral vector, lentiviral vector, adenoviral vector and adeno-associated viral vector. More preferably, it may be a lentiviral vector. In FIG. 13, a pvBDD.FVIII.ires.vWex32 lentiviral vector in which the two genes are linked by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES) is disclosed as a bicistronic expression system.

In another aspect, the present invention provides lentiviral particles packaged by transfecting the lentiviral vector capable of expressing the mutant vWF or B-domain-deleted human FVIII in a packaging cell.

In the present invention, the packaging cell may be any one capable of packaging the lentiviral vector to form lentiviral particles, such as 293T cells and HT1080 cells. Preferably, 293T cells may be used.

In the present invention, the lentiviral vector is cotransfected with pGag-pol, pRev, pTat and pVSV-G in order to form the lentiviral particles. In the example that follows, a split gene expression system was used for safe production of viruses. That is, only the factors gag-pol, tat, rev and VSV-G essential for the production of viruses were expressed, but they were delivered through different vectors in order to reduce the possibility of recombination.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and prevention of hemophilia comprising the animal cell expression vector or the mutant vWF and B-domain-deleted human FVIII expressed therefrom as an active ingredient.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and prevention of hemophilia comprising the lentiviral particles as an active ingredient.

Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in more detail.

The inventors of the present invention developed a lentiviral-based expression vector system which expresses coagulation Factor VIII (FVIII) and mutant von Willebrand factor (vWF) at the same time. Specifically, we confirmed the expression and activation of FVIII by the lentiviral-based system and elucidated the domain of vWF essential for the activation of FVIII.

The FVIII use in the present invention is a B-domain-deleted FVIII (BDD-FVIII) for increasing the secretion of FVIII. The B domain of FVIII consists of one large exon and its asparagine, serine and threonine residues are highly glycosylated. According to recent functional studies, the domain is not essential in procoagulant activity, and the deletion thereof does not affect the function of FVIII. When BDD-FVIII was expressed in cells, the problems of unstable FVIII mRNA structure and interaction with ER chaperones were overcome and a lot of FVIII mRNA could be attained.

Of the BDD-FVIII, a variant with 226 amino acids at the N-terminal with 6 consensus site for N-linked glycosylation exhibited significantly increased FVIII secretion. Lentiviral vectors can infect nearly all non-dividing cells, as well as dividing cells, and provide stable expression for a long period of time because they are inserted in the cell chromosome after the infection. Thus, lentivirus-based vectors for expression of FVIII may be useful for gene therapy.

The mutant vWF of the present invention has some of its entire exons deleted, and comprises only up to D1-D2-D'-D3 domains (vWF23), D1-D2-D'-D3-A1 domains (vWF28), or D1-D2-D'-D3-A1-A2 domains (vWF32). These domains bind to FVIII, to FVIII and platelet GP1 b, or to FVIII, platelet GP1 b and collagen, respectively.

In order to maximize the FVIII activity, expression of vWF is required. It protects FVIII from deactivating factors such as thrombin, and helps the FVIII to have a stable structure. However, when FVIII and full-length vWF are expressed together outside cells, they co-localize in the cells, thereby resulting in inhibited secretion of FVIII. Accordingly, a mutant vWF is desired which maximizes the function of FVIII and comprises only the portion not inhibiting FVIII secretion.

Different mammalian expression vectors may be used to deliver FVIII and vWF. But, lentiviral-based vectors are preferred for the cells to which the delivery of gene is not easy, for example, stem cells, hematopoietic progenitor cells, and the like. However, lentiviral-based vectors have a size limit for the expressed genes. BDD.FVIII has a size of 4.4 Kb, whereas vWF has a size of 5.6 Kb up to the A2 domain. Accordingly, the gene can be expressed with no significant loss in the viral titer. Further, in order to increase viral titer, it is possible to pseudotype the envelope protein of lentivirus with VSV-G and then concentrate the virus.

The animal cell expression vector of the present invention may include a promoter derived from eukaryotic or prokaryotic cells that can induce transcription of foreign genes in animal cells. The promoter may include control elements for enhancement or repression of transcription. Suitable promoters may include cytomegalovirus promoter (pCMV), Rous sarcoma virus long terminal repeat promoter (pRSV), and SP6, T3 or T7 promoters. Enhancer sequences upstream from the promoter or terminator sequences downstream of the coding region may be optionally included in the vector of the present invention in order to facilitate expression. The vector of the present invention may further contain additional nucleotide sequences such as a polyadenylation sequence, a localization sequence or a signal sequence, sufficient to permit a cell to efficiently and effectively process the protein expressed by the nucleic acid of the vector. Examples of

preferred polyadenylation sequences are SV40 early region polyadenylation site [C. V. Hall et al., *J. Molec. App. Genet.* 2, 101(1983)] and SV40 late region polyadenylation site [S. Carswell and J. C. Alwine, *Mol. Cell Biol.* 9, 4248(1989)]. Such additional sequences are inserted into the vector such that they are operably linked with the promoter sequence, if transcription is desired, or additionally with the initiation and processing sequences, if translation and processing are desired. Alternatively, the inserted sequences may be placed at any position in the vector. The term "operably linked" is used to describe a linkage between a gene sequence and a promoter or other regulatory or processing sequence such that the transcription of the a gene sequence is directed by an operably linked promoter sequence, the translation of the gene sequence is directed by an operably linked translational regulatory sequence, and the post-translational processing of the gene sequence is directed by an operably linked processing sequence.

Standard techniques for the construction of the vector of the present invention are well-known to those skilled in the art and can be found in such references as Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual* 2nd Ed. (Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989). A variety of strategies are available for ligating DNA fragments, the choice of which depends on the nature of the terminal of the DNA fragments and can be readily made by those skilled in the art.

Examples of the lentivirus that can be used in the present invention may include HIV-1 and HIV-2, SIV, FIV, BLV, EIAV, CEV and visna viruses. Particularly, HIV and SIV are desired for gene therapy. HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus type 1) is a lentivirus belonging to the retrovirus family. Like other members of the family, HIV can infect non-dividing cells. This makes lentiviruses a good candidate vector for gene therapy.

HIV-1-based vectors are the most frequently used as gene delivery vehicles due to their ability to infect dividing and non-dividing cells with their cytoplasmic and nuclear entry proteins (Kohn, 2001, *J. Intern. Med.* 249, 379-390). This ability is frequently attributed to various features of the vectors, including the nuclear localization signals in multiple virion proteins and the central polypurine tract that generates a triple stranded DNA flap' in the reverse-transcribed genome. As a consequence of these features, bioengineered HIV-1 is capable of infecting hematopoietic progenitor cells very efficiently at fairly low MOIs (Park and Choi, 2004, *Mol. Cells* 17, 297-303). The primary concern with regard to the use of lentiviral vectors as tools for gene therapy is that the transfer vector is derived from HIV-1. However, all of the viral components required for viral replication were deleted in the viral vectors utilized in the present study and the transfer vector ultimately harbored less than 5% of the HIV-1 genome. Another barrier encountered when using lentiviral vectors is restriction on the size of the transferred gene. vWF comprises 52 exons with a cDNA size of approximately 9 Kb, which exceeds the size limit of the majority of lentiviral vectors. In this report we successfully forced vWF cDNA into a lentiviral vector (FIGS. 1 and 2). In the preparation and production of the lentivirus, we substituted the env of HIV-1 with the VSV-G protein. VSV-G mediates viral entry into cells via membrane fusion rather than a specific cell surface receptor protein, resulting in a significant broadening of the host range (Hofmann et al., 1999, *J. Virol.* 12, 10010-10018). More importantly, it confers structural stability during ultracentrifugation, enabling concentration of the virus to high titers with no significant loss of infectivity (Burns et al., 1993; Hofmann et al., 1999). By exploiting these features of VSV-G, we successfully produced and concentrated vEx52, result-

ing in six fold higher transduction efficiency with only 1/100th of the volume of lentiviral supernatant (FIG. 3). These results were FACS (Fluorescence-activated cell sorting) analyzed and clearly observed under fluorescence light: significantly greater quantities of eGFP were observed in the cells transduced with the concentrated vEx52 than with the non-concentrated vEx52 (FIG. 4). Recent work by De Meyer et al. involved incorporation of a long vWF cDNA into a lentiviral vector and transduction of blood-outgrowth endothelial cells (BOECs) from von Willebrand disease type 3 dogs to develop gene therapy with type 3 VWD (De Meyer et al., 2006, *Blood* 107, 4728-4736). However, concentrating low titers of virus may not prove to be ideal for actual application in the treatment of hemophilia A as it requires additional time-consuming and laborious procedures. Therefore, we attempted to reduce the size of the vWF cDNA insert in the lentiviral vector. We deleted domains of vWF leaving only minimal regions for interactions between vWF and FVIII. The mature vWF consists of the D'-D3-A1-A2-A3-D4-B1-B2-B3-C1-C2 domains. FVIII binds to the D'-D3 domain, and the A1 domain binds to platelet glycoprotein Ib, heparin, and collagen. This facilitates the aggregation of platelets and also aids in adhesion to sites of vascular injury. The vWF gene is located on chromosome 12 and comprises 52 exons with 178,000 bases. We deleted exons 24-46 to create pRex23 and pvEx23, thus retaining only the region that binds to FVIII. FVIII binds to vWF within the 272 amino acid residues located at its amino terminus (Sadler, 1998).

We also constructed pRex28 and pvEx28, in which exons 29-46 are deleted, thereby leaving the platelet binding sites in addition to the FVIII binding region. The platelet binding site on vWF is located within the A1 domain (Sadler, 1998). When pvEx23, pvEx28 and pvEx52 were packaged into lentiviruses, virus production from pvEx23 and pvEx28 was significantly greater than from pvEx52. Generally, the viral titer of non-concentrated vEx52 was 2×10^4 to 4×10^4 particles/ml (FIG. 3), whereas the titers of vEx23 and vEx28 were between 1×10^5 and 3×10^5 particles/ml (FIG. 5). The transduction efficiencies of the three viruses can be compared from the histograms in FIGS. 3 and 5. When 500 μ l of vEx23, vEx28, and vEx52 was used to transduce Jurkat cells, 35.02%, 26.30% and 4.64% of the cells, respectively, were positive for eGFP. Therefore, we were able to improve viral titers and transduction efficiencies by deleting the domains within vWF that are less important for the interaction with FVIII, thus reducing the packaging size. When pRex23, pRex28 and pRex52 were transfected into 293T cells and functional FVIII was measured in the supernatants, pRex23 and pRex28 had lower FVIII activity than observed with the full-length vWF, pRex52. However, using the viral system, the supernatants from the cells transduced with vEx28 had higher secreted BDD.FVIII activity than those from vEx52 (FIG. 6). This may be because the large size of the full-length vWF limits the efficiency its packaging and expression. While we cannot decide whether the expression of FVIII was altered by vWF, vEx28 increased the secreted level of expressed FVIII in the supernatants, and this effect is most likely attributable to protection of the conformation of BDD.FVIII. This is consistent with the observation that more FVIII activity was detected in cells when vWF was present (Kaufman et al., 1997, *Blood* 8, S3-14). Another indication that vWF stabilizes FVIII is the fact that the FVIII was degraded rapidly in the absence of vWF (Over et al., 1978, *J. Clin. Invest.* 62, 223234), whereas it was cleared more slowly in the presence of vWF (Tuddenham et al., 1982, *Br. J. Haematol.* 52, 259-267). With greater insight into the nature of

vWF and FVIII, the two proteins may be engineered to provide a powerful genetic tool for correcting FVIII-deficient cells.

Pharmaceutical formulations of the present invention include those suitable for parenteral (e.g., subcutaneous, intradermal, intramuscular, intravenous and intra-arterial), oral or inhalation administration. Alternatively, pharmaceutical formulations of the present invention may be suitable for administration to the mucous membranes of a subject (e.g., intranasal administration). The formulations may be conventionally prepared in unit dosage form and may be prepared by any of the methods well known in the art.

The dosage of the pharmaceutical formulations of the present invention may vary depending on the formulation type, administration method, age, body weight and sex of the subject, severity of disease, diet, administration time, administration route, rate of excretion, response sensitivity, or the like. A skilled physician will readily determine a dosage effective for the desired treatment. In general, the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention is administered with a unit dosage of 10^3 - 10^7 viral particles or 0.001-100 mg/kg of protein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent by describing in detail exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in:

FIG. 1 schematically represents the packaging constructs comprising a mutant von Willebrand Factor (vWF) gene according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2A-2B illustrate integration (gDNA, FIG. 2A) and transcription (cDNA, FIG. 2B) of vWF from transduced COS-1 cells gene according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 concentration of vWF-expressing HIV-1 according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4A-4E illustrate transduction of pseudotyped HIV-1 expressing vWF according to an embodiment of the present invention. Transfection of the vectors resulted in lentivirus production, as indirectly confirmed by expression of eGFP (FIG. 4A). The transduction and expression of both the non-concentrated and the concentrated vEx52 were also visualized with fluorescence light from the eGFP expression (FIG. 4B-D). In order to verify vWF expression from vEx52, COS-1 cells were transduced with vEx52 at a MOI of 0.5 and labeled with human vWF antibody, followed by TRITC staining (FIG. 4E);

FIG. 5A-B schematically represent the deletion constructs of vWF according to an embodiment of the present invention. pRex23 and pRex28 were generated from pREP7-vWF (generously provided by Dr. Subrata Banerjee) by deleting exons 24-46 and 29-46, respectively, and pvEx23 and pvEx28 were generated in the same way from pvEx52 (FIG. 5A). The sequences were deleted by PCR using the forward primer 5'-CGTGATGAGACGCTCCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 17), and the reverse primer of Ex23PR 5'-TTTTCTGGTGTCAGCACTG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 18) for pRex23 and pvEx23, and Ex28PR 5'-CAGGTGCAGGGGAGAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 19) for pRex28 and pvEx28. pvEx23 and pvEx28 were then used to generate VSV-G pseudotyped HIV-1 with packaging vectors, and titrated in Jurkat cells. 35.02% and 26.30% of the cells proved to be positive for eGFP when 500 μ l of the viral supernatants of vEx23 and vEx28, respectively, were employed for transduction (FIG. 5B);

FIG. 6A-C illustrate detection of the activity of secreted functional coagulation Factor VIII (FVIII) according to an embodiment of the present invention. Levels of FVIII activity of 28.89 ± 18.86 , 107.22 ± 30.64 , and 199.44 ± 58.93 were obtained from transfection with pRex23, pRex28, and pRex52, respectively (FIG. 6A). FVIII activity in the supernatants of the transduced cells was 28.33 ± 5.50 for the vEx52-transduced cells, and 33.89 ± 3.93 and 53.33 ± 9.43 , respectively for the vEx23- and vEx28-transduced cells (FIG. 6B). K562 cells were co-transduced with vBDD.FVIII, the BDD-FVIII expressing HIV-1, along with vEx23, vEx28, or vEx52 at a MOI of 1.5. RT-PCR with RNA from the transduced cells confirmed expression of the transduced FVIII (FIG. 6C);

FIG. 7 illustrates expression of eGFP tested to confirm the expression of FVIII according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 illustrates activation of FVIII by different mutant vWFs determined by chromogenic assay according to an embodiment of the present invention (FIG. 8A represents activities of FVIII in normal state (without damage) and FIG. 8B represents activities of FVIII treated with PMA (phorbol ester) in damaged state);

FIG. 9 illustrates a process of manufacturing a lentiviral vector comprising a B-domain-deleted FVIII gene according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 10 illustrates a process of manufacturing a lentiviral vector comprising a vWF gene according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 illustrates a process of manufacturing vectors comprising pRex23, pRex28 and pRex32 comprising variants of vWF according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 12 illustrates a process of manufacturing lentiviral vectors pvEx23, pvEx28 and pvEx32 comprising variants of vWF according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 13 illustrates a process of manufacturing a pvBDD-FVIII.vWEx32 lentiviral vector comprising BDD.FVIII and vWF variant genes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in more detail through examples. However, the following examples are only for the illustration of the present invention and the scope of the present invention is not to be construed as limited by them.

Example 1

Construction of Vectors

Plasmid pRF8 was obtained by cloning full length FVIII cDNA (ATCC® Accession No. 40086) into NotI site of a modified pREP7 vector (Invitrogen™, USA) using a linker. Then, in order to delete most of B-domain, the upstream 5' region of B-domain was amplified by PCR using primers, 5'-GAACCGAAGCTGGTACCT-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 9) and 5'-GACAGGAGGGGCATTAATGCTTTTGCT-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 10), and the downstream 3' region was amplified using primers, 5'-TTTAATGCCCCACAGTCTTGAAACGCCAT-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 11) and 5'-ATGCTCGC-CAATAAGGCATTCCA-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 12). Then, the amplified products were denatured with heat and renatured to obtain the product. The resulting product was cleaved by KpnI and BglI and sub-cloned into KpnI-BglI of pRF8 plasmid to produce pREP7-BDD.FVIII in which B-domain-deleted (BDD) FVIII cDNA was inserted under the RSV 3' LTR

control of pREP7 (Invitrogen™, USA) (see The Journal of Gene Medicine, Volume 6, Issue 7, Pages 760-768). We used the pREP7-BDD.FVII from Subrata Banerjee, an author of the thesis. Besides, pRex52 plasmid was obtained by cloning full length vWF cDNA (ATCC® #59126) into NotI site of a modified pREP7 vector (Invitrogen™, USA) using a linker as described above.

pHlvec2.GFP obtained from Joseph Sodroski, an author of Journal of Virology, December 1999, p. 10020-10028, was used as a Lentivirus backbone (transfer vector) in the invention. The pHlvec2.GFP was prepared by deleting env and vpu sequences from v653 rtatpC virus, maintaining Rev-responsive element, and inserting eGFP gene (Clontech, USA) after IRES. The vector map of pHlvec2.GFP is the same with a vWF gene-deleted form of FIG. 1.

To manufacture a Lentivirus vector comprising B-domain-deleted FVIII gene, cDNA of BDD.FVIII (B-Domain-Deleted Coagulation Factor VIII) was obtained from the pREP7-BDD.FVIII using NotI. The cDNA was inserted into the lentivirus backbone using the same enzyme to produce pvBDD.FVIII. This process of manufacturing is represented in FIG. 9. In detail, pRep7-BDD.FVIII and lentivirus backbone were digested by NotI and the BDD.FVIII fragments from pREP7-BDD.FVIII were ligated in NotI site of lentivirus backbone.

To manufacture Lentivirus vector comprising vWF (von Willebrand Factor) gene, the pRex52 and lentivirus backbone were digested by NotI, vWF fragments were ligated in NotI site of lentivirus backbone, and pvEx52 was manufactured. This process of manufacturing was represented in FIG. 10. A particular map of pvEx52 as a result of FIG. 10 is shown in FIG. 1. vWF gene is located between long terminal repeats (LTRs) and fused into IRES-eGFP of a viral vector. vWF variants were manufactured from the pRex52 using PCR (polymerase chain reaction). The PCR was performed using dNTP 25 mM, phosphorylated primers 10 µg, 2 mM Mg²⁺, DNA template, and pfuUltraTMII Fusion™ HS DNA Polymerase (Agilent Technologies, USA). The PCR had 50 µg of Total volume and was performed under following conditions: 5 min at 95° C.; 18 cycles of 30 sec at 95° C., 30 sec at 52° C. and 30 sec at 72° C. per 1 Kb; and 10 min at 72° C. For manufacturing the vWF variants, a forward primer sequence was 5'-CGT GATGAGACGCTCCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 13), and reverse primer sequences were 5'-TTTTCTGGTGT-CAGCACACTG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 14; pRex23), 5'-AGGTG-CAGGGGAGAGGGT-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 15; pRex28) and 5'-AGAGCACAGTTTGTGGAG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 16; pRex32), respectively. After PCR, amplified products were isolated by using PCR removal kit (Qiagen, USA) and ligated with ligase (Takara, JAPAN) at 15° C. for approximately 24 hour to manufacture pRex23, pRex28 and pRex32. This process of manufacturing is shown in FIG. 11. The ligated mixture was transformed into TOP10.

To manufacture Lentivirus vector comprising vWF variants gene, the pRex23, pRex28 or pRex32 and lentivirus backbone were digested by NotI, the vWF fragments from the pRex23, pRex28 or pRex32 were ligated into NotI site of lentivirus backbone, and pvEx23, pvEx28 and pvEx32 were manufactured. This process of manufacturing is shown in FIG. 12.

pvBDD.FVIII has a form that IRES-eGFP is located after the BDD.FVIII. Only the eGFP was deleted from the pvBDD.FVIII by PCR and thereinto vWF variant was inserted to produce pvBDD.FVIII.vWEx32. This process of manufacturing is shown FIG. 13.

The TOP10 was used as a host in the transformation. To co-express BDD.FVIII and vWF21, IRES (internal riboso-

mal entry site) sequence was inserted after BDD.FVIII and thereafter vWF32 was inserted. Therefore, co-expression of two proteins under one promoter is possible, and the vWF32 expressed after BDD.FVIII plays a role in helping an activity and function of BDD.FVIII.

Example 2

Production of Virus

Vesicular stomatitis G protein (VSV-G) pseudotyped HIV-1 was produced by cotransfecting 293T cells with gag-pol, tat, rev, VSV-G and transfer vector using quinquapartite plasmid transient transfection method (Park and Choi, 2004 *Mol. Cells* 17, 297-303). 293T cells were subcultured at a density of 4.5×10^6 cells on 100 mm plates 24 hours prior to transfection. The supernatant was replaced with culture medium comprising 10% FCS and 25 mM HEPES 4 hours prior to transfection. For transfection, packaging plasmid with Gag and Pol 10 µg, VSV-G plasmid 2 µg, Tat plasmid 1 µg, Rev plasmid 1 µg and transfer vector 10 µg were used. These DNAs were added in 62 µl of 2.5 M CaCl₂, the volume was set to 500 µl with water, and vortexed. This mixture was added with 500 11R of 2xHBS (281 mM NaCl, 100 mM HEPES, 1.5 mM Na₂HPO₄ pH 7.12), left for 30 min at room temperature, and then spread on 293T cells. 16 hours after transfection, the supernatant was replaced with RPMI of 10 mM HEPES buffer. After 48 hours, viruses produced and flowed to supernatant were harvested by using 0.45 µm filter.

Example 3

Titration of Virus

3×10^5 cells of NIH3T3 cells were placed on 60 cm² dishes, and after 20 hours serial dilutions of viral stocks were added in the cells. Total volume was set to 2 ml and 2 µg/ml of polybrene (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) was added. After 6 hours, the virus was removed, the cells were washed with DMEM comprising 2% FCS to remove the virus completely, and the cells were put into an incubator. After 2 days, the cells were separated with 0.25% trypsin, washed with 1xPBS, and fixed with 3.7% formaldehyde. Percent of eGFP⁺ radiating in the infected cells was determined using FACScan™ (Becton Dickinson, USA Immunocytometry System) and CellQuest program (Becton Dickinson, USA), and then the titer of virus was calculated using the following formula: (2x a number of cells x Percent of eGFP⁺ cells) + quantity of virus.

Example 4

Concentration of Virus

The filtered virus was transferred to polyallomer tubes and ultracentrifuged at 50,000xg in SW28 rotor for 1.5 hour at 4° C. The pellet was resuspended in a small volume of medium. Then, the tube was covered with Parafilm®, and left to stand at 4° C. for 24 hours. For extended storage, the viral stocks were stored at -80° C. FIG. 3 represents concentration of vWF-expressing HIV-1 according to an embodiment of the present invention. 500 µl of non-concentrated (middle) and 5 µl of concentrated (right) of vWF-expressing lentivirus supernatants were used to transduce Jurkat cells. The fraction of eGFP⁺ cells among the transduced cells was determined by flow cytometry.

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Example 5

Transduction of Cells

The cells were counted by hemocytometer and plated in 24-well or 6-well plates at the desired cell number. Viral supernatants were added to the cells at the desired multiplicity of infection (MOI). At this time, the total volume was adjusted to the desired volume with the culture medium, and polybrene was added at a concentration of 2 µg/ml. The infection was performed in the presence of 5% CO₂ for 6 hours at 37° C. After infection, the cells were washed with the medium. FIG. 5 is a schematic showing deleted constructs of vWF according to an embodiment of the present invention. (A) pRex23 and pvEx23 were constructed by deleting exons 24-46, and pRex28 and pvEx28 were generated by deleting exons 29-46, from pRex52 and the lentiviral vector, respectively. (B) vEx23 and vEx28 were generated from pvEx23 and pvEx28, respectively, and 500 µl of viral supernatants were used to transduce Jurkat cells. The percentages of cells transduced were analyzed by FACS (Fluorescence-activated cell sorting).

Example 6

Isolation of DNA and RNA

Genomic DNA was prepared with 500 µl of lysis buffer (0.1 M Tris HCl, pH 8.5, 5 mM EDTA, 0.2% SDS, 200 mM NaCl and 100 µg/ml protease K). It was precipitated with isopropanol and washed with 75% ethanol. RNA was prepared with Trizol® reagent (Invitrogen™, USA) and cDNA was synthesized using ImPromII™ (Promega, USA). PCR was carried out with Pfu (SolGent, Republic of Korea) in a total volume of 50 µl containing 1× reaction buffer, 25 mM each dNTP, 10 µM each primers, 2 mM Mg²⁺, and DNA template. FIG. 2 represents integration and transcription of vWF from transduced COS-1 cells according to an embodiment of the present invention. The COS-1 cells were transduced with lentivirus expressing vWF. (A) Integration of the transduced vWF gene was detected in the genomic DNA of transduced COS-1 cells by PCR for 421-bp of vWF and 227-bp of LTR. (B) cDNA was prepared from the transduced cells and amplified with primers specific for 421-, 227- and 187-bp of vWF, LTR, and GAPDH, respectively. vEx52: transduced with vEx52, eGFP: transduced with eGFP-expressing lentivirus.

Example 7

Plasmid Transfection

DNAs (pRex23, pRex28 and pRex32) for transfection were added into 50 µl of 150 mM NaCl on 12-well plate, vortexed and spun down. This mixture was added with PEI in 3 times volume of DNA, vortexed and spin down again. This mixture was left for 10 min at room temperature, and was dropped on the cells carefully.

Example 8

Immunocytochemistry

Transduced cells were grown on glycogen-coated coverslips in 6-well tissue culture plates. The cells were fixed in cooled 100% methanol, washed with TBS [50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl], quenched in fresh 0.1% sodium

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borohydride in TBS for 5 min and washed three times with TBS for 5 min. The cells were blocked with blocking buffer (10% horse serum, 1% bovine serum albumin, 0.02% NaN₃ in 1×PBS) for 60 min and washed for 5 min with TBS. Primary vWF antibody (Abcam®, USA) was diluted in 1% BSA in TBS and incubated overnight with the cells at 4° C. After washing the cells three times for 5 min with TBS, they were labeled with secondary goat-antimouse IgG TRITC antibody (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, USA) in 1% BSA in TBS for 30 min at room temperature covered with aluminum foil. They were then washed 3 times with TBS for 5 min and mounted on slides using a ProLong® Antifade Kit (Cell Signaling, USA).

FIG. 4 represents transduction by pseudotyped HIV-1 expressing vWF according to an embodiment of the present invention. (A) 293T cells were cotransfected with plasmids harboring viral components for virus production including a transfer vector that harbored vWF-IRES-eGFP. eGFP from the transfer vector was visualized under a fluorescence microscope at 10x magnifications. (B) Jurkat cells were visualized under a microscope with bright and fluorescence light. (C) Jurkat cells were transduced with 500 µl of non-concentrated vWF-expressing pseudotyped HIV-1 and visualized under a microscope. (D) Jurkat cells were transduced with 5 µl of 160-fold concentrated vWF-expressing pseudotyped HIV-1 and visualized under the white and fluorescence light. (E) COS-1 cells were transduced with vWF-pseudotyped HIV-1 at a MOI of 0.5. eGFP was visualized under a fluorescence microscope (left). vWF was visualized by staining vWF with antibody and TRITC (middle). The detected vWF was not from the COS-1 cells but from the transferred gene (right).

BDD.FVIII deleting B domain from sequence of FVIII was prepared and inserted into lentivirus vector. For expression of lentivirus, the BDD.FVIII was expressed together with gag, pol, VSV-G, tat, and rev in 293T cells to produce lentivirus expressing BDD.FVIII. The transfected cells may express BDD.FVIII. Conclusively, the expression was confirmed by measuring activity of FVIII. Production and infection of virus were confirmed indirectly by expression of eGFP in the vector. FIG. 7 is a photograph representing result of eGFP expression in order to confirm expression of FVIII according to an embodiment of the present invention (correspond to FIG. 4(a)). Production and infection of virus were confirmed indirectly by expression of eGFP.

Example 9

Measurement of Factor VIII Activity

Activated FVIII activity (FVIII:C) was measured by Coatest® VIII:C/4 kit (DiaPharm, Italy). One volume of phospholipids and 100 mg/l ciprofloxacin was mixed with 5 volumes of Factor IXa and Factor X. The mixture 50 µl was placed in 96-well microtiter plates, added with 25 µl of cell culture supernatant, incubated for 5 min at 37° C. And then, the mixture was added with 25 µl of 0.025 mol/L CaCl₂, incubated for 5 min at 37° C., added with 50 µl of S-2765 and 1-2581, and incubated for 10 min at 37° C. The incubation was stopped by 20% acetic acid, and the activity of FVIII was measured at 405 nm. A standard curve was made with each experiment using known amounts of recombinant human FVIII.

FIG. 6 represents detection of the activity of secreted functional FVIII. (A) 293T cells were co-transfected with pREP7-BDD.FVIII and pRex23, pRex28, or pRex52. The supernatants of the transfected cells were collected and quantitated for FVIII activity. (B) K562 cells were co-transduced with HIV-1-BDD.FVIII and vEx23, vEx28 or vEx52 at a MOI of

1.5. The supernatants of the transduced cells were collected and screened for FVIII activity. The data are expressed as the means \pm S.E. of at least three independent experiments. (C) RT-PCR was performed with RNAs from the transduced cells. B-domain-deleted FVIII yields a product of 1.1 Kb. vEx23: transduced with vEx23, vEx28: transduced with vEx28, vEx52: transduced with vEx52.

Example 10

Measurement of Factor VIII Activity after PMA Treatment

pRex23, pRex28 and pRex32 are named for Von Willebrand Factors deleting C-terminal domains from exon 23, exon 28 and exon 32, respectively. pRex52 is named for full length of vWF. They were co-expressed with pREP7-BF carrying a von Willebrand factor vector and the activity of secreted FVIII was determined. As a result, pREP7-BF and pRex32 had the greatest activity of secreted FVIII (FIG. 8). FIG. 8 represents the results of measuring the activity of FVIII for each vWF variant by Chromatography Assay. HeLa cells were transfected with pREP7; pREP7-BF and pRex23; pREP7-BF and pRex28; pREP7-BF and pRex32; and pREP7-BF and pRex52, and then functional activities of FVIII secreted out in supernatant were measured. FIG. 8A represents the results of measuring the activities of FVIII in normal state (without damage). The activities of all FVIII were increased as compared with a basal level, and the 32 (pREP7-BF and pRex32) was the greatest. FIG. 8B represents the activities of FVIII treated with PMA (phorbol ester) in damaged state. The secretion of all FVIII was induced at least 3 times and marked a remarkable difference as compared with basal level. The result means that FVIII secretion is induced greatly in damaged state, but not in normal state, which give a very useful advantage in real clinics of hemophilia.

Result 1: Lentivirus Production

8.8 Kb of von Willebrand Factor cDNA was cloned into the HIV-1-based lentivirus between the two long terminal repeats to create pvEx52 (LTRs) (FIG. 1). The vWF cDNA was excised from vW-8 (ATCC® #59126) using EcoR1 and Sac1 and cloned into the lentiviral vector. The vWF gene was fused with IRES-eGFP, thus permitting the use of enhanced green fluorescence protein (eGFP) as an indirect indicator of virus production after transfection into 293T cells together with the other viral genes required for packaging viral particles (Parolin et al., 1996; Yee et al., 1994). The packaging vector harbored gag and pol under the control of the CMV promoter, and the tat and rev of HIV-1 were expressed separately under the control of the CMV promoter. We used the vesicular stomatitis virus G protein (VSV-G) instead of HIV-1 env (Hofmann et al., 1999).

Result 2: Transduction of VSV-G Pseudotyped HIV-1

COS-1 cells were transduced with vEx52, the lentivirus carrying the complete vWF, or HIV-1-eGFP, the eGFP-expressing lentivirus. Genomic DNA was isolated from the transduced COS-1 cells, and PCR was conducted using primers specific for the human vWF gene and HIV-1 LTR. vWF could be amplified only from the vEx52-transduced cells, whereas LTR could be amplified from both vEx52 and HIV-1-eGFP-transduced cells (FIG. 2A). In addition, RNA was prepared from the transduced cells, with which cDNA was synthesized and PCR for vWF and LTR was conducted (FIG. 2B). The result of RT-PCR accorded with the amplifications from the PCR of the genomic DNA. vWF was amplified only

from the vEx52-transduced cells, and LTR was detected from both vEx52 and HIV-1-eGFP-transduced cells.

Result 3: Expression of vWF from Transduced Lymphoblast Cells and Concentration of vEx52

Jurkat cells were plated at 2×10^5 and transduced with 500 μ l of non-concentrated vEx52 virus. FACS analysis showed that 5.55% of the cells were positive for GFP expression (FIG. 3). After the virus suspension was concentrated by a factor of 160 by ultracentrifugation at 50,000 \times g, 5 μ l of concentrated virus was employed to transduce an equal number of Jurkat cells, resulting in a yield of 29.51% eGFP+ (FIG. 3). By concentrating the vEx52 virus, the titer increased from 2.8×10^4 particles/ml to 2.3×10^7 particles/ml. Transfection of the vectors resulted in lentivirus production, as indirectly confirmed by expression of eGFP (FIG. 4A). The transduction and expression of both the non-concentrated and the concentrated vEx52 were also visualized with fluorescence light from the eGFP expression (FIG. 4B-D). In order to verify vWF expression from vEx52, COS-1 cells were transduced with vEx52 at a MOI of 0.5 and labeled with human vWF antibody, followed by TRITC staining (FIG. 4E). In addition, in order to determine whether the transduced constructs were maintained for an extended period of time, 1×10^5 Jurkat cells were transduced at a MOI of 0.5. After 4 days, 38.27% of the cells were shown by FACS analysis to be positive for eGFP. When analyzed on days 9, 15, 35, 50 and 90 post-transduction, 33.01%, 11.99%, 11.32%, 6.13%, and 5.56%, respectively of the cells were eGFP+(data not shown).

Result 4: Construction of Domain-Deleted vWF

pRex23 and pRex28 were generated from pREP7-vWF (generously provided by Dr. Subrata Banerjee) by deleting exons 24-46 and 29-46, respectively, and pvEx23 and pvEx28 were generated in the same way from pvEx52 (FIG. 5A). The sequences were deleted by PCR using the forward primer 5'-CGTGATGAGACGCTCCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 17), and the reverse primer of Ex23PR 5'-TTTCTGGTGTTCAGCACTG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 18) for pRex23 and pvEx23, and Ex28PR 5'-CAGGTGCAGGGGAGAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 19) for pRex28 and pvEx28. pvEx23 and pvEx28 were then used to generate VSV-G pseudotyped HIV-1 with packaging vectors, and titrated in Jurkat cells. 35.02% and 26.30% of the cells proved to be positive for eGFP when 500 μ l of the viral supernatants of vEx23 and vEx28, respectively, were employed for transduction (FIG. 5B).

Result 5: Functional Activity of the Secreted FVIII

In order to examine the effects of domain-deleted vWF on the secretion of FVIII, 293T cells were transfected with pREP7-BDD.FVIII along with one pRex23, pRex28, or pRex52. After 48 h of transfection, the supernatants were collected and screened for functional FVIII activity in chromogenic assays. Levels of FVIII activity of 28.89 ± 18.86 , 107.22 ± 30.64 , and 199.44 ± 58.93 were obtained from transfection with pRex23, pRex28, and pRex52, respectively (FIG. 6). Therefore, the functional activity of the secreted FVIII declined as more of vWF was deleted. Next, we assessed the effects of domain-deleted vWF when it was transduced as a component of vWF lentivirus. K562 cells were co-transduced with vBDD.FVIII, the BDD-FVIII expressing HIV-1, along with vEx23, vEx28, or vEx52 at a MOI of 1.5. RT-PCR with RNA from the transduced cells confirmed expression of the transduced FVIII (FIG. 6). FVIII activity in the supernatants of the transduced cells was 28.33 ± 5.50 for the vEx52-transduced cells, and 33.89 ± 3.93 and 53.33 ± 9.43 , respectively for the vEx23- and vEx28-transduced cells (FIG. 6). These data suggest that the deleted

form of vWF, vEx28, is the most efficient at promoting secretion of FVIII via interaction of its minimal essential domains with FVIII.

As described, in accordance with the present invention, coagulation Factor VIII (FVIII) can be effectively expressed in a viral vector and the FVIII activity can be significantly enhanced using mutant von Willebrand Factor (vWF) with a reduced size. Further, the viral vector of the present invention may be effectively used to treat hemophilia through gene

therapy. The coexpression of FVIII and vWF may be very useful in clinical applications such as gene therapy for hemophilia A treatment.

While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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<210> SEQ ID NO 2

<211> LENGTH: 1187

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 2

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Ala Arg Cys Ser Leu Phe Gly Ser Asp Phe Val Asn Thr Phe Asp Gly
 35 40 45

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65					70					75					80
Arg	Val	Ser	Leu	Ser	Val	Tyr	Leu	Gly	Glu	Phe	Phe	Asp	Ile	His	Leu
				85					90					95	
Phe	Val	Asn	Gly	Thr	Val	Thr	Gln	Gly	Asp	Gln	Arg	Val	Ser	Met	Pro
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Tyr	Ala	Ser	Lys	Gly	Leu	Tyr	Leu	Glu	Thr	Glu	Ala	Gly	Tyr	Tyr	Lys
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Asn	Phe	Gln	Val	Leu	Leu	Ser	Asp	Arg	Tyr	Phe	Asn	Lys	Thr	Cys	Gly
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Leu	Cys	Gly	Asn	Phe	Asn	Ile	Phe	Ala	Glu	Asp	Asp	Phe	Met	Thr	Gln
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Glu	Gly	Thr	Leu	Thr	Ser	Asp	Pro	Tyr	Asp	Phe	Ala	Asn	Ser	Trp	Ala
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Leu	Ser	Ser	Gly	Glu	Gln	Trp	Cys	Glu	Arg	Ala	Ser	Pro	Pro	Ser	Ser
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Ser	Cys	Asn	Ile	Ser	Ser	Gly	Glu	Met	Gln	Lys	Gly	Leu	Trp	Glu	Gln
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Cys	Gln	Leu	Leu	Lys	Ser	Thr	Ser	Val	Phe	Ala	Arg	Cys	His	Pro	Leu
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Val	Asp	Pro	Glu	Pro	Phe	Val	Ala	Leu	Cys	Glu	Lys	Thr	Leu	Cys	Glu
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Cys	Ala	Gly	Gly	Leu	Glu	Cys	Ala	Cys	Pro	Ala	Leu	Leu	Glu	Tyr	Ala
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Arg	Thr	Cys	Ala	Gln	Glu	Gly	Met	Val	Leu	Tyr	Gly	Trp	Thr	Asp	His
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Ser	Ala	Cys	Ser	Pro	Val	Cys	Pro	Ala	Gly	Met	Glu	Tyr	Arg	Gln	Cys
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Val	Ser	Pro	Cys	Ala	Arg	Thr	Cys	Gln	Ser	Leu	His	Ile	Asn	Glu	Met
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Cys	Gln	Glu	Arg	Cys	Val	Asp	Gly	Cys	Ser	Cys	Pro	Glu	Gly	Gln	Leu
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Leu	Asp	Glu	Gly	Leu	Cys	Val	Glu	Ser	Thr	Glu	Cys	Pro	Cys	Val	His
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Ser	Gly	Lys	Arg	Tyr	Pro	Pro	Gly	Thr	Ser	Leu	Ser	Arg	Asp	Cys	Asn
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Thr	Cys	Ile	Cys	Arg	Asn	Ser	Gln	Trp	Ile	Cys	Ser	Asn	Glu	Glu	Cys
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Pro	Gly	Glu	Cys	Leu	Val	Thr	Gly	Gln	Ser	His	Phe	Lys	Ser	Phe	Asp
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Asn	Arg	Tyr	Phe	Thr	Phe	Ser	Gly	Ile	Cys	Gln	Tyr	Leu	Leu	Ala	Arg
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Asp	Cys	Gln	Asp	His	Ser	Phe	Ser	Ile	Val	Ile	Glu	Thr	Val	Gln	Cys
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Ala	Asp	Asp	Arg	Asp	Ala	Val	Cys	Thr	Arg	Ser	Val	Thr	Val	Arg	Leu
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Pro	Gly	Leu	His	Asn	Ser	Leu	Val	Lys	Leu	Lys	His	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val
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Ala Met Asp Gly Gln Asp Val Gln Leu Pro Leu Leu Lys Gly Asp Leu	465	470	475	480
Arg Ile Gln His Thr Val Thr Ala Ser Val Arg Leu Ser Tyr Gly Glu		485	490	495
Asp Leu Gln Met Asp Trp Asp Gly Arg Gly Arg Leu Leu Val Lys Leu		500	505	510
Ser Pro Val Tyr Ala Gly Lys Thr Cys Gly Leu Cys Gly Asn Tyr Asn		515	520	525
Gly Asn Gln Gly Asp Asp Phe Leu Thr Pro Ser Gly Leu Ala Glu Pro		530	535	540
Arg Val Glu Asp Phe Gly Asn Ala Trp Lys Leu His Gly Asp Cys Gln		545	550	555
Asp Leu Gln Lys Gln His Ser Asp Pro Cys Ala Leu Asn Pro Arg Met		565	570	575
Thr Arg Phe Ser Glu Glu Ala Cys Ala Val Leu Thr Ser Pro Thr Phe		580	585	590
Glu Ala Cys His Arg Ala Val Ser Pro Leu Pro Tyr Leu Arg Asn Cys		595	600	605
Arg Tyr Asp Val Cys Ser Cys Ser Asp Gly Arg Glu Cys Leu Cys Gly		610	615	620
Ala Leu Ala Ser Tyr Ala Ala Ala Cys Ala Gly Arg Gly Val Arg Val		625	630	635
Ala Trp Arg Glu Pro Gly Arg Cys Glu Leu Asn Cys Pro Lys Gly Gln		645	650	655
Val Tyr Leu Gln Cys Gly Thr Pro Cys Asn Leu Thr Cys Arg Ser Leu		660	665	670
Ser Tyr Pro Asp Glu Glu Cys Asn Glu Ala Cys Leu Glu Gly Cys Phe		675	680	685
Cys Pro Pro Gly Leu Tyr Met Asp Glu Arg Gly Asp Cys Val Pro Lys		690	695	700
Ala Gln Cys Pro Cys Tyr Tyr Asp Gly Glu Ile Phe Gln Pro Glu Asp		705	710	715
Ile Phe Ser Asp His His Thr Met Cys Tyr Cys Glu Asp Gly Phe Met		725	730	735
His Cys Thr Met Ser Gly Val Pro Gly Ser Leu Leu Pro Asp Ala Val		740	745	750
Leu Ser Ser Pro Leu Ser His Arg Ser Lys Arg Ser Leu Ser Cys Arg		755	760	765
Pro Pro Met Val Lys Leu Val Cys Pro Ala Asp Asn Leu Arg Ala Glu		770	775	780
Gly Leu Glu Cys Thr Lys Thr Cys Gln Asn Tyr Asp Leu Glu Cys Met		785	790	795
Ser Met Gly Cys Val Ser Gly Cys Leu Cys Pro Pro Gly Met Val Arg		805	810	815
His Glu Asn Arg Cys Val Ala Leu Glu Arg Cys Pro Cys Phe His Gln		820	825	830
Gly Lys Glu Tyr Ala Pro Gly Glu Thr Val Lys Ile Gly Cys Asn Thr		835	840	845
Cys Val Cys Gln Asp Arg Lys Trp Asn Cys Thr Asp His Val Cys Asp		850	855	860
Ala Thr Cys Ser Thr Ile Gly Met Ala His Tyr Leu Thr Phe Asp Gly		865	870	875
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<210> SEQ ID NO 4
<211> LENGTH: 1833
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

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<400> SEQUENCE: 4

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20          25          30
Ala Arg Cys Ser Leu Phe Gly Ser Asp Phe Val Asn Thr Phe Asp Gly
35          40          45
Ser Met Tyr Ser Phe Ala Gly Tyr Cys Ser Tyr Leu Leu Ala Gly Gly
50          55          60
Cys Gln Lys Arg Ser Phe Ser Ile Ile Gly Asp Phe Gln Asn Gly Lys
65          70          75          80
Arg Val Ser Leu Ser Val Tyr Leu Gly Glu Phe Phe Asp Ile His Leu
85          90          95
Phe Val Asn Gly Thr Val Thr Gln Gly Asp Gln Arg Val Ser Met Pro
100         105         110
Tyr Ala Ser Lys Gly Leu Tyr Leu Glu Thr Glu Ala Gly Tyr Tyr Lys
115        120        125
Leu Ser Gly Glu Ala Tyr Gly Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Asp Gly Ser Gly
130        135        140
Asn Phe Gln Val Leu Leu Ser Asp Arg Tyr Phe Asn Lys Thr Cys Gly
145        150        155        160
Leu Cys Gly Asn Phe Asn Ile Phe Ala Glu Asp Asp Phe Met Thr Gln
165        170        175
Glu Gly Thr Leu Thr Ser Asp Pro Tyr Asp Phe Ala Asn Ser Trp Ala
180        185        190
Leu Ser Ser Gly Glu Gln Trp Cys Glu Arg Ala Ser Pro Pro Ser Ser
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Ser Cys Asn Ile Ser Ser Gly Glu Met Gln Lys Gly Leu Trp Glu Gln
210        215        220
Cys Gln Leu Leu Lys Ser Thr Ser Val Phe Ala Arg Cys His Pro Leu
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Val Asp Pro Glu Pro Phe Val Ala Leu Cys Glu Lys Thr Leu Cys Glu
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Cys Ala Gly Gly Leu Glu Cys Ala Cys Pro Ala Leu Leu Glu Tyr Ala
260        265        270
Arg Thr Cys Ala Gln Glu Gly Met Val Leu Tyr Gly Trp Thr Asp His
275        280        285
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1175			1180			1185		
Cys Val	Asp Pro	Glu Asp	Cys	Pro Val	Cys Glu	Val	Ala Gly	Arg
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Pro Pro	Leu His	Asp Phe	Tyr	Cys Ser	Arg Leu	Leu	Asp Leu	Val
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Val Leu	Lys Ala	Phe Val	Val	Asp Met	Met Glu	Arg	Leu Arg	Ile
1295			1300			1305		
Ser Gln	Lys Trp	Val Arg	Val	Ala Val	Val Glu	Tyr	His Asp	Gly
1310			1315			1320		
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1355			1360			1365		
Ser Lys	Ile Asp	Arg Pro	Glu	Ala Ser	Arg Ile	Thr	Leu Leu	Leu
1370			1375			1380		
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<210> SEQ ID NO 5

<211> LENGTH: 6075

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 5

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<210> SEQ ID NO 6

<211> LENGTH: 2023

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 6

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Cys Gln Lys Arg Ser Phe Ser Ile Ile Gly Asp Phe Gln Asn Gly Lys
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Arg Val Ser Leu Ser Val Tyr Leu Gly Glu Phe Phe Asp Ile His Leu
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Phe Val Asn Gly Thr Val Thr Gln Gly Asp Gln Arg Val Ser Met Pro
100            105            110
Tyr Ala Ser Lys Gly Leu Tyr Leu Glu Thr Glu Ala Gly Tyr Tyr Lys
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Leu Ser Gly Glu Ala Tyr Gly Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Asp Gly Ser Gly
130            135            140
Asn Phe Gln Val Leu Leu Ser Asp Arg Tyr Phe Asn Lys Thr Cys Gly
145            150            155            160
Leu Cys Gly Asn Phe Asn Ile Phe Ala Glu Asp Asp Phe Met Thr Gln
165            170            175
Glu Gly Thr Leu Thr Ser Asp Pro Tyr Asp Phe Ala Asn Ser Trp Ala
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Leu Ser Ser Gly Glu Gln Trp Cys Glu Arg Ala Ser Pro Pro Ser Ser
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<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

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cacctccaag ggaggagtaa tgcttgaga cctcaggta ataattccaa agagtggctg 4020
caagtggact tccagaagac aatgaaagtc acaggagtaa ctactcagg agtaaaatct 4080
ctgcttacca gcattgtatg gaaggagtgc ctcatctcca gcagtcaaga tggccatcag 4140
tggactctct tttttcagaa tggcaagta aaggtttttc agggaaatca agactccttc 4200
acacctgtgg tgaactctct agaccaccg ttactgactc gctaccttcg aattcacccc 4260
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ctctactga 4329

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<210> SEQ ID NO 8

<211> LENGTH: 1442

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 8

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1           5           10           15
Cys Phe Ser Ala Thr Arg Arg Tyr Tyr Leu Gly Ala Val Glu Leu Ser
20          25          30
Trp Asp Tyr Met Gln Ser Asp Leu Gly Glu Leu Pro Val Asp Ala Arg
35          40          45
Phe Pro Pro Arg Val Pro Lys Ser Phe Pro Phe Asn Thr Ser Val Val
50          55          60
Tyr Lys Lys Thr Leu Phe Val Glu Phe Thr Asp His Leu Phe Asn Ile
65          70          75          80
Ala Lys Pro Arg Pro Pro Trp Met Gly Leu Leu Gly Pro Thr Ile Gln
85          90          95
Ala Glu Val Tyr Asp Thr Val Val Ile Thr Leu Lys Asn Met Ala Ser
100         105         110
His Pro Val Ser Leu His Ala Val Gly Val Ser Tyr Trp Lys Ala Ser
115         120         125
Glu Gly Ala Glu Tyr Asp Asp Gln Thr Ser Gln Arg Glu Lys Glu Asp
130         135         140
Asp Lys Val Phe Pro Gly Gly Ser His Thr Tyr Val Trp Gln Val Leu
145         150         155         160
Lys Glu Asn Gly Pro Met Ala Ser Asp Pro Leu Cys Leu Thr Tyr Ser
165         170         175
Tyr Leu Ser His Val Asp Leu Val Lys Asp Leu Asn Ser Gly Leu Ile
180         185         190

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Gly	Ala	Leu	Leu	Val	Cys	Arg	Glu	Gly	Ser	Leu	Ala	Lys	Glu	Lys	Thr
195						200				205					
Gln	Thr	Leu	His	Lys	Phe	Ile	Leu	Leu	Phe	Ala	Val	Phe	Asp	Glu	Gly
210						215				220					
Lys	Ser	Trp	His	Ser	Glu	Thr	Lys	Asn	Ser	Leu	Met	Gln	Asp	Arg	Asp
225				230						235		240			
Ala	Ala	Ser	Ala	Arg	Ala	Trp	Pro	Lys	Met	His	Thr	Val	Asn	Gly	Tyr
				245				250						255	
Val	Asn	Arg	Ser	Leu	Pro	Gly	Leu	Ile	Gly	Cys	His	Arg	Lys	Ser	Val
		260				265						270			
Tyr	Trp	His	Val	Ile	Gly	Met	Gly	Thr	Thr	Pro	Glu	Val	His	Ser	Ile
		275				280						285			
Phe	Leu	Glu	Gly	His	Thr	Phe	Leu	Val	Arg	Asn	His	Arg	Gln	Ala	Ser
290						295				300					
Leu	Glu	Ile	Ser	Pro	Ile	Thr	Phe	Leu	Thr	Ala	Gln	Thr	Leu	Leu	Met
305				310						315		320			
Asp	Leu	Gly	Gln	Phe	Leu	Leu	Phe	Cys	His	Ile	Ser	Ser	His	Gln	His
				325				330						335	
Asp	Gly	Met	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Val	Lys	Val	Asp	Ser	Cys	Pro	Glu	Glu	Pro
		340				345						350			
Gln	Leu	Arg	Met	Lys	Asn	Asn	Glu	Glu	Ala	Glu	Asp	Tyr	Asp	Asp	Asp
355						360						365			
Leu	Thr	Asp	Ser	Glu	Met	Asp	Val	Val	Arg	Phe	Asp	Asp	Asp	Asn	Ser
370						375				380					
Pro	Ser	Phe	Ile	Gln	Ile	Arg	Ser	Val	Ala	Lys	Lys	His	Pro	Lys	Thr
385				390						395		400			
Trp	Val	His	Tyr	Ile	Ala	Ala	Glu	Glu	Glu	Asp	Trp	Asp	Tyr	Ala	Pro
				405				410						415	
Leu	Val	Leu	Ala	Pro	Asp	Asp	Arg	Ser	Tyr	Lys	Ser	Gln	Tyr	Leu	Asn
		420				425						430			
Asn	Gly	Pro	Gln	Arg	Ile	Gly	Arg	Lys	Tyr	Lys	Lys	Val	Arg	Phe	Met
435						440						445			
Ala	Tyr	Thr	Asp	Glu	Thr	Phe	Lys	Thr	Arg	Glu	Ala	Ile	Gln	His	Glu
450						455				460					
Ser	Gly	Ile	Leu	Gly	Pro	Leu	Leu	Tyr	Gly	Glu	Val	Gly	Asp	Thr	Leu
465				470						475		480			
Leu	Ile	Ile	Phe	Lys	Asn	Gln	Ala	Ser	Arg	Pro	Tyr	Asn	Ile	Tyr	Pro
				485				490						495	
His	Gly	Ile	Thr	Asp	Val	Arg	Pro	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Arg	Arg	Leu	Pro	Lys
		500						505				510			
Gly	Val	Lys	His	Leu	Lys	Asp	Phe	Pro	Ile	Leu	Pro	Gly	Glu	Ile	Phe
515						520						525			
Lys	Tyr	Lys	Trp	Thr	Val	Thr	Val	Glu	Asp	Gly	Pro	Thr	Lys	Ser	Asp
530						535				540					
Pro	Arg	Cys	Leu	Thr	Arg	Tyr	Tyr	Ser	Ser	Phe	Val	Asn	Met	Glu	Arg
545				550						555		560			
Asp	Leu	Ala	Ser	Gly	Leu	Ile	Gly	Pro	Leu	Leu	Ile	Cys	Tyr	Lys	G

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Asn Ile Gln Arg Phe Leu Pro Asn Pro Ala Gly Val Gln Leu Glu Asp	
610	615 620
Pro Glu Phe Gln Ala Ser Asn Ile Met His Ser Ile Asn Gly Tyr Val	
625	630 635 640
Phe Asp Ser Leu Gln Leu Ser Val Cys Leu His Glu Val Ala Tyr Trp	
	645 650 655
Tyr Ile Leu Ser Ile Gly Ala Gln Thr Asp Phe Leu Ser Val Phe Phe	
	660 665 670
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Phe Lys His Lys Met Val Tyr Glu Asp Thr Leu Thr	
	675 680 685
Leu Phe Pro Phe Ser Gly Glu Thr Val Phe Met Ser Met Glu Asn Pro	
	690 695 700
Gly Leu Trp Ile Leu Gly Cys His Asn Ser Asp Phe Arg Asn Arg Gly	
705	710 715 720
Met Thr Ala Leu Leu Lys Val Ser Ser Cys Asp Lys Asn Thr Gly Asp	
	725 730 735
Tyr Tyr Glu Asp Ser Tyr Glu Asp Ile Ser Ala Tyr Leu Leu Ser Lys	
	740 745 750
Asn Asn Ala Ile Glu Pro Arg Ile Thr Arg Thr Thr Leu Gln Ser Asp	
	755 760 765
Gln Glu Glu Ile Asp Tyr Asp Asp Thr Ile Ser Val Glu Met Lys Lys	
	770 775 780
Glu Asp Phe Asp Ile Tyr Asp Glu Asp Glu Asn Gln Ser Pro Arg Ser	
785	790 795 800
Phe Gln Lys Lys Thr Arg His Tyr Phe Ile Ala Ala Val Glu Arg Leu	
	805 810 815
Trp Asp Tyr Gly Met Ser Ser Ser Pro His Val Leu Arg Asn Arg Ala	
	820 825 830
Gln Ser Gly Ser Val Pro Gln Phe Lys Lys Val Val Phe Gln Glu Phe	
	835 840 845
Thr Asp Gly Ser Phe Thr Gln Pro Leu Tyr Arg Gly Glu Leu Asn Glu	
	850 855 860
His Leu Gly Leu Leu Gly Pro Tyr Ile Arg Ala Glu Val Glu Asp Asn	
865	870 875 880
Ile Met Val Thr Phe Arg Asn Gln Ala Ser Arg Pro Tyr Ser Phe Tyr	
	885 890 895
Ser Ser Leu Ile Ser Tyr Glu Glu Asp Gln Arg Gln Gly Ala Glu Pro	
	900 905 910
Arg Lys Asn Phe Val Lys Pro Asn Glu Thr Lys Thr Tyr Phe Trp Lys	
	915 920 925
Val Gln His His Met Ala Pro Thr Lys Asp Glu Phe Asp Cys Lys Ala	
	930 935 940
Trp Ala Tyr Phe Ser Asp Val Asp Leu Glu Lys Asp Val His Ser Gly	
945	950 955 960
Leu Ile Gly Pro Leu Leu Val Cys His Thr Asn Thr Leu Asn Pro Ala	
	965 970 975
His Gly Arg Gln Val Thr Val Gln Glu Phe Ala Leu Phe Phe Thr Ile	
	980 985 990
Phe Asp Glu Thr Lys Ser Trp Tyr Phe Thr Glu Asn Met Glu Arg Asn	
	995 1000 1005
Cys Arg Ala Pro Cys Asn Ile Gln Met Glu Asp Pro Thr Phe Lys	
1010	1015 1020

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Glu Asn Tyr Arg Phe His Ala Ile Asn Gly Tyr Ile Met Asp Thr 1025 1030 1035
Leu Pro Gly Leu Val Met Ala Gln Asp Gln Arg Ile Arg Trp Tyr 1040 1045 1050
Leu Leu Ser Met Gly Ser Asn Glu Asn Ile His Ser Ile His Phe 1055 1060 1065
Ser Gly His Val Phe Thr Val Arg Lys Lys Glu Glu Tyr Lys Met 1070 1075 1080
Ala Leu Tyr Asn Leu Tyr Pro Gly Val Phe Glu Thr Val Glu Met 1085 1090 1095
Leu Pro Ser Lys Ala Gly Ile Trp Arg Val Glu Cys Leu Ile Gly 1100 1105 1110
Glu His Leu His Ala Gly Met Ser Thr Leu Phe Leu Val Tyr Ser 1115 1120 1125
Asn Lys Cys Gln Thr Pro Leu Gly Met Ala Ser Gly His Ile Arg 1130 1135 1140
Asp Phe Gln Ile Thr Ala Ser Gly Gln Tyr Gly Gln Trp Ala Pro 1145 1150 1155
Lys Leu Ala Arg Leu His Tyr Ser Gly Ser Ile Asn Ala Trp Ser 1160 1165 1170
Thr Lys Glu Pro Phe Ser Trp Ile Lys Val Asp Leu Leu Ala Pro 1175 1180 1185
Met Ile Ile His Gly Ile Lys Thr Gln Gly Ala Arg Gln Lys Phe 1190 1195 1200
Ser Ser Leu Tyr Ile Ser Gln Phe Ile Ile Met Tyr Ser Leu Asp 1205 1210 1215
Gly Lys Lys Trp Gln Thr Tyr Arg Gly Asn Ser Thr Gly Thr Leu 1220 1225 1230
Met Val Phe Phe Gly Asn Val Asp Ser Ser Gly Ile Lys His Asn 1235 1240 1245
Ile Phe Asn Pro Pro Ile Ile Ala Arg Tyr Ile Arg Leu His Pro 1250 1255 1260
Thr His Tyr Ser Ile Arg Ser Thr Leu Arg Met Glu Trp Met Gly 1265 1270 1275
Cys Asp Leu Asn Ser Cys Ser Met Pro Leu Gly Met Glu Ser Lys 1280 1285 1290
Ala Ile Ser Asp Ala Gln Ile Thr Ala Ser Ser Tyr Phe Thr Asn 1295 1300 1305
Met Phe Ala Thr Trp Ser Pro Ser Lys Ala Arg Leu His Leu Gln 1310 1315 1320
Gly Arg Ser Asn Ala Trp Arg Pro Gln Val Asn Asn Pro Lys Glu 1325 1330 1335
Trp Leu Gln Val Asp Phe Gln Lys Thr Met Lys Val Thr Gly Val 1340 1345 1350
Thr Thr Gln Gly Val Lys Ser Leu Leu Thr Ser Met Tyr Val Lys 1355 1360 1365
Glu Phe Leu Ile Ser Ser Ser Gln Asp Gly His Gln Trp Thr Leu 1370 1375 1380
Phe Phe Gln Asn Gly Lys Val Lys Val Phe Gln Gly Asn Gln Asp 1385 1390 1395
Ser Phe Thr Pro Val Val Asn Ser Leu Asp Pro Pro Leu Leu Thr 1400 1405 1410

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Arg Tyr Leu Arg Ile His Pro Gln Ser Trp Val His Gln Ile Ala
1415 1420 1425

Leu Arg Met Glu Val Leu Gly Cys Glu Ala Gln Asp Leu Tyr
1430 1435 1440

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gaaccgaagc tggtagct 18

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cgtgatgaga cgctccag 18

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What is claimed is:

1. A mutant von Willebrand factor (vWF32) having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 in which exons 33-48 of vWF are deleted.
2. A mutant vWF32 gene having a base sequence encoding for a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.
3. The mutant vWF32 gene as set forth in claim 2, wherein the mutant vWF32 gene has the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

* * * * *